Matthews. Miss Mary L.

246.263.

[illegible] her say that if every one of her four children wanted to be a foreign missionary she would not keep one back."

Very few know I ever thought of it. It was quite a surprise to me last night to find that Miss Miner has been thinking of the same thing, and it was a delightful hour we spent together after the discovery was made.

I have asked God to direct in this matter, and to indicate very plainly what He would have me do.

I would refer to the teachers of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, Miss L. C. Wattles of Oberlin, Prest. Cravath of Fisk, and the other teachers here, as those who know me best, although I have not asked their permission to give their names.

Hoping for a reply at your earliest convenience, Very respectfully,

Mary L. Matthews.

Rec'd May 6

Fisk University,
Nashville, Tenn.
May 2. 1887.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston, Mass:
Dear Sir:-

You will not remember me, but when my home was in Oberlin I often saw you, and it does not seem to me that I am writing to a stranger. There are other reasons why I prefer to write this letter to you.

While visiting in Oberlin, two years ago, I heard Mrs. Johnston read an earnest letter you had written to the young ladies of the College and town, asking for workers for the foreign field.

It is in regard to my duty in relation to that work that I wish ask your advice.

When Dr. Albert Bushnell was in Oberlin, I think about eight years ago, he said just a few words which led me to think of giving myself to foreign missions, and never since that time have I entirely given up that thought. Many times I have felt as if it was too much for such a weak, unfaithful servant of Christ to hope for; then came the thought that it would be more to His honor if He could use me.

The question has come to me, now, in such a way that I do not feel like leaving it unsettled.

The list of "qualifications" is rather discouraging. It doesn't seem to me I have one of them, except that I do want to do the work that God has for me to do, where He sees best to call me.

I am willing to do whatever you, and those who know most about such work, shall decide is best.

I am twenty-two years old.
My homes ~~have been~~ were in Cleveland, and Oberlin until 1880, when my mother was married again, and we moved to New York State. Then I attended Mt. Holyoke Seminary for three years, but losing part of one year because of weak eyes.
Since leaving the Seminary I have taught two terms in district-schools in New York State, and this year have been teaching the Intermediate School, of Fisk University. It has been a happy year. and yet I see so many mistakes and lost opportunities.
I know my mother would be very glad to have me engage in some missionary-work. I have told her of my desires - and that I expected to offer myself as a candidate, but there is so little time before the close of this year, that I have not waited for her reply. But I

gave their names for the list of missionary volunteers.

Thanking you for your kind letter, and for the interest you expressed in me and my future plans, I am

Yours sincerely,
Mary L. Matthews.

Rec'd May 14.

Fisk University.
Nashville, Tenn.
May 10. 1887.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir-

Your letter came this morning, and I have asked Miss Miner to write to you as you requested. She thinks she can do so tonight.

I am trying to be patient, but would like the question of my work for next year dicided as soon as possible. Our year will close on May 25th. and I expect to leave Nashville a week later.

What do you think best about my teaching here another year, before entering upon foreign work, if that should be given me?

I believe I am ready to do as is best, but can not tell which would be the wiser course.

Shall I tell you what my Mother wrote in reply to my letter telling of my desires? I will copy a part of it - "Whatever and wherever the Lord leads my children, I should not dare hold them back. *With the Lord, anywhere*. Such important questions, only He can help you to decide *aright*. If I were to advice, I should say, it seems better to have another year of the same work first, and a longer time to decide what is needed and make ready for such a change. Your Father thinks Japan is a very desirable country to study, but all alike are God's.

May your heavenly Father's blessing attend you."

As to the particular field, I would rather leave that to the Board to decide. I want to go to some place where it is hard to get workers, and where I am needed most. I would rather not choose for myself.

If I am permitted to go, I do not want to wait too long, as every year is valuable.

Whenever you are ready you may have my answers to the questions in the Manual.

Would it be worth while to wait until I go to Cleveland in June, to consult our family physician, Dr. M. L. Brooke, of that city, for the medical examination? If that examination is one of the next steps, however, I would go to the physician whom Miss Miner consulted.

Mr. Forman, of Princeton, N. J. gave an address last Sabbath morning which expressed my thoughts on the subject better than any presentation of the cause I ever heard. Several of the students

Recd Oct 3 87

Fisk University
Nashville, Tenn.
Sept. 30. 1887

Rev. E. K. Alden, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,-

I think I have not written since receiving your letter of July 21st, as it seemed not to require an answer.

Now I send a note to let you know certainly where I am, in case you need to write me.

Do not think I am impatient to know my designation. I can wait until it seems best to decide it.

The term opens very pleasantly here, and we have the prospect

8476

Mary L Matthews

of a happy year of work.

Very respectfully,

Mary L. Matthews.

P.S. I would like to add that in Misses Jennie and Gertrude Cozad, of Cleveland, you have two of the very best young ladies you could possibly secure for any field. I have known them since we were in the Infant Class in S.S. together, and am very glad to know of their appointment for foreign work.

M. L. M.

my dealings with the Board, and hope it will not seem to you that I have.

I am not sorry that I came here again. but shall be glad when I can begin my lifework (as I hope it will be.)

I hope God will direct in this matter, and make very plain the path He would have me take.

Sincerely yours,
Mary L. Matthews.

Mary L. Matthews

Eur. Turkey

Fisk University.
Nashville, Tenn.
Nov. 16. 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;- Your letter of the 9th inst. was received two days ago.

That I should be designated to Macedonia had not occurred to me, but as I have thought of it since your letter came, I have been deeply interested and am sure I could give my love and best efforts to that field as heartily as to any other.

Only one question stands in the way of my accepting it at once. That question I will bring before you, and ask your advice.

For some time I have felt the need of better preparation for foreign work

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and have hoped that the way would open to another year of study at Mt. Holyoke. I did not finish the studies of the third year, on account of trouble with my eyes.

I do not know what studies I would be expected to teach at Monastir. My work now is about the same as that in the lower Grammar grades of public schools.

Do not think, please, that I wish to postpone going, or am losing interest at all. I should be glad to go next year, but desire to do what will be best in the end. At present I see no way to meet expenses ~~there~~ at Mt. Holyoke Sem. myself, as I would wish to do, unless I should borrow nearly or quite two hundred dollars. If it should be best, would there be any way by which I could meet the debt, in two or three years, from my own salary? It is possible some other provision could be made in our family, to meet expenses, but I cannot now depend upon it.

If you decide to send me as I am, I will go, but you know more of what qualifications are necessary than I do. and can look at the matter from every side.

I have written frankly, stating the circumstances, and will leave it with you to advise as to my next step -

You would not expect me to go before next fall, I suppose - Can you tell about what time? I would like to know something about the kind and amount of clothing needed, if I go -

Probably if I should take a year for preparation, someone else would have to be sent to Monastir.

I am sorry I did not mention this in my correspondence last year, but it seemed impossible, and a sense of the need of it has been growing upon me more and more -

I have not intended to be unfair in

Copy.

Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.
Nov. 30, 1887.

Rev. N.G.Clark, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of Nov. 22, was received last Saturday, but this is my first opportunity of replying.

I wish, first, to thank you for your kindness, and offers of assistance.

You asked if I had studied Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry, Physical Geography, Botany, and French. I have had all but Chemistry and French. I have had one term of instrumental music, and was in a choral class while at Mt. Holyoke. I can play simple hymn tunes. I have had one term of Greek (the last term I studied in the Oberlin High School.) Latin Reader, Caesar, and Cicero de Senectute, and twelve weeks of German-(the required amount at South Hadley.) I studied also, Ancient and Modern History, United States Constitution, English Literature, Physiology, Zoology, Mineralogy, Trigonometry, and Physics, of the course- but have not had Virgil, Astronomy, Chemistry, French, Evidences of Christianity, nor any of the senior studies.

The highest studies I have taught are Physiology and Algebra, in a district school. Of the higher studies, I think Latin and Algebra would be easiest to teach, in English, but I don't feel sure I could teach them through a new language, and teaching the others seems still more helpless. However, I am willing to do what I can.

It would be hard to wait another year, but I want to be prepared to do all I can in the field to which I may be sent. The longer I think about it, the more I want to go to Monastir, if it is best. In my school here, I teach only the common English branches, through the Third Reader, and Decimals in Arithmetic, and it is very easy compared with what might be needed at Monastir. The experience I have gained, however, is going to be of as much value as a good deal of study.

If it is best for me to study a while, it might be better to take special studies in Oberlin. I like both schools--Mt Holyoke and Oberlin-- very much.

I shall be glad to answer any other questions you wish to ask, and abide by your decision as to further study.

Very truly yours,

[Signed.] Mary L. Matthews.

Fisk University.

Miss Matthews

REV. E. M. CRAVATH, President.
REV. A. K. SPENCE, Dean.
E. C. STICKEL, Treasurer

JUBILEE HALL

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 25 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;-

Your letter of the 7th inst. was received two weeks ago.

I was glad to have your opinion as to my wearing my hair short, and shall follow your suggestion and let it grow out, now.

My plans will be made with reference to being ready as early in September as possible. I am glad to know more definitely about it; but it almost frightens me sometimes to think that I should be called to a work which

JUBILEE HALL

Fisk University.

REV. E. M. CRAVATH, PRESIDENT.
REV. A. K. SPENCE, DEAN.
E. C. STICKEL, TREASURER

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;-

Your letter of Jan. 26- is before me.

I am very glad you think I can go to Monastir next fall. It would be hard to wait another year, but I thought it might be better to do so. And I think I should prefer to go directly to Monastir, unless it would be of real benefit to stop at Samokov to study the language, and you say Miss Cole thinks it could be learned as well at Monastir.

I am busy, having charge of

the fourth floor of Jubilee Hall, in addition to my regular school duties, but I am careful, and am very well. My eyes, too, are better than last summer, and do not trouble me at all.

Can you tell me about the date of my sailing? The summer will be very short for all I would like to do, but I can plan, I think, to be ready in September or the first of October.

Perhaps you can answer a question which has occurred to me. My hair is short – has been so for two years, and I enjoy it, but if I go to Turkey ought I to let it grow out? Will it make any difference in the way the people there will regard me?

I am "looking forward hopefully," to the future.

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. Matthews.

so few have the privilege of doing in a foreign land. I often wonder that God trusts me with any place at all in His vineyard, even in this country.

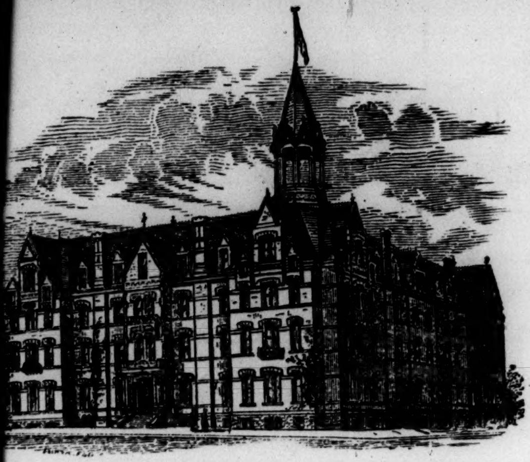
I think I will write to Miss Cole very soon, and ask some questions as to the number of different articles of clothing, bedding, etc. which I will need.

I will enclose two cents in stamps for the American Board Almanac. Will you please ask to have it sent?

Yours sincerely,
Mary L. Matthews.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have received a very pleasant letter from Miss Cole, enclosing her photograph. It gives some idea of what the work will be. and I am so glad of it.

M. L. M.


JUBILEE HALL.

Fisk University.

REV. E. M. CRAVATH, D. D., PRES'T. REV. A. K. SPENCE, DEAN.
E. C. STICKEL, TREASURER.

Nashville, Tenn., May 1, 1888.

ev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Clark;-

Your very kind letter was received yesterday. I thank you for your offer of assistance in carrying out my plans. If there should be anything you can do, I shall not hesitate to ask you about it.

I will act upon your suggestion that I be re-vaccinated, although it may be useless. Two attempts failed five years ago. It will do no harm to try, and I do not know that I should have thought of it.

You asked about my plans for the summer. Our Commencement day will be the 13th of June. On the next day I expect to leave

Nashville, for Tabor, Iowa, to visit an uncle for about a week. I would like to visit at Three Rivers, Mich., at Oberlin, and Cleveland, on my way home, arriving at Millville, N.Y., about the middle of July. I have relatives in Hudson, N.Y., New York ity, in Connecticut & South Weymouth, (Mass.) ho will want me to visit them, but hose will have to be short calls. I promised Rev. & Mrs. Jones of North bington, friends of Miss Cole, that I would visit them before I sail.

My duties are somewhat less han during the winter, and I am quite well, though I'm a little bit tired of teaching, once in a while. Nine months of steady work with no vacation, but a day now and then (holidays), is rather hard. However I do not feel that I have overworked.

It will be a trial to leave the friends here, both pupils and teachers, but I love my work beyond the Sea, nd shall be glad to go.

Very sincerely yours,
Mary L. Matthews.

JUBILEE HALL

REV. E. M. CRAVATH, PRESIDENT.
REV. A. K. SPENCE, DEAN.
E. C. STICKEL, TREASURER

Nashville, Tenn., May 17, 1888.

Rec'd May 21

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;-

Your letter, dated the 10th inst., was received a few days since.

You think my plans for visiting are more extensive than I ought to make, after a year of teaching. I know that going about among my friends will be somewhat fatiguing, but I will be as careful as possible, and rest all I can. I suppose I could give up going to Iowa, if I felt sure it would be best; but the uncle whom I wish to

Nashville Aug 13 1888

visit, is the only one of my father's family now living, and he is in very poor health. I do not think I shall have another opportunity of seeing him.

My own brother is with my step-brother in Michigan, and I must see them, if I can.

Mrs Cole wrote a very cordial invitation to call on her, and I have promised to do so. Possibly I can arrange not to go to New York.

If there is need of writing to me after I leave Nashville, a letter addressed to Millville, N.Y. will be forwarded.

I shall be glad to have part of the outfit funds before leaving this city. as I find dry good more reasonable here than at home. If convenient, please send me fifty dollars, and I will make as good use of it as I can. Yours sincerely, M. L. Matthews.

Nashville, June 13, 1888,

Rec'd June 19.

Fisk University.
Nashville. Tenn.
June 13. 1888.

Rev. A. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I have decided to go at once to Three Rivers, Michigan, instead of taking the trip West which I had planned.

I felt that it would be best, even though it was a disappointment to give up seeing my uncle.

I am feeling quite well, but a little nervous, and shall rest all I can at my brother's.

This is our Commencement day and I start tomorrow morning for Michigan.

8254.

I am sure this change will meet your approval.

Many things for my outfit I have purchased here. and will send home by freight with other things I do not need on the way.

I may be in Oberlin at Commencement time - and reach home the second week in July, if not earlier.

Sincerely yours,
Mary L. Matthews.

month. I would have companies to

month. I would have company to Constantinople, if I wait, if Mrs. Farnsworth has not changed her plans and is willing to let me go with her.

Will do all I can to be ready soon.

Very truly yours,

Mary L. Matthews.

Miss Mary E McMillan

Ansd by Doctor

Millville, N. Y.
July 25. 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-
Your letter, with one from Mr. Swett, came to me a few hours ago. I write to send by tomorrow's mail.

I would be very glad to go with Mr. & Mrs. Richardson; and Mother thinks it a good plan, although she did not want me to go so soon. I had not thought of going before the last week in August, at the earliest, and it will be a little hard to be ready on such short notice. It may not be possible, but it will be no harder to go now than a month later, as regards the partings from home-friends. There would be so much more time to dread it.

I have not yet received the

barrel I sent some by freight from Nashville. It may be at the depot, 2½ miles away. now. Father will go to see about it tomorrow, and if he does not find it I certainly can not be ready next week. There are many things in the barrel which I must pack to take, and others to be left at home.

In case I should go next week I must leave some articles of clothing unmade, but I think I should not need them this year, and can do my sewing for next year in the summer vacation.

I thank you for the offer of funds, but I think I shall not need more until I reach Boston.

I will write you again tomorrow evening, when I know if the barrel has come.

We expect my brother this week, to help me pack, as well as to visit.

We have but one mail a day - at 2 P.M. - but we shall try to get it promptly.

Very sincerely yours,
Mary L. Matthews.

P.S. You spoke of my stopping at North Abington to see Mr. Jones and his wife. I had already promised them a call, at their invitation, and also Mrs. Cole at Syracuse. I can stop over a train or over night at the latter place.

Rev. Henry C. Alvord of South Weymouth is my own cousin, and I think I shall visit there and probably my cousin will go to the steamer with me. I have not written to him lately. He may be away for his vacation when I would be there.

Thu. A.M.

Father has been to the depot to see about the barrel this A.M. It has not come. Will write at once to the freight agent at Nashville.

It will not be possible to go next week, and I do not know if I shall be ready to go before the last of the

Miss Childs wishes me to give you her love -

I am so glad I could come with her. What will be the best plan for the last part of the journey - after leaving Constantinople? I know I shall be cared for all the way.

We heard Mr. Spurgeon preach a very good sermon on Matt. 16:13-17. this morning.

I have been through St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey, which I enjoyed greatly.

You will hear from us again soon. We expect to stop in Munich and Vienna.

I hope I shall find a letter from you when I reach Constantinople.

Yours, with love -

Mary L. Matthews.

P.S. Please remember me to Miss Child Dr. Smith, Dr. Alden and Mr. Ward. They were so kind to me while I was in Boston.

Mary.

Miss M[illegible]

1

23 Torrington Square.
London, W.C. Aug. 26. 1888.

Dear Dr. Clark;-

Since our arrival in Liverpool we have been very busy, and the letter I intended to write you at once has been left unwritten. I sent a cablegram to you on Thursday, which I hope was received and understood. Miss Childs had written to my Mother of my sickness on the steamer, and mailed the letter at Queenstown. I knew it would be a long time before Mother could receive a letter from me, and so I could think of no better way than to telegraph to you asking you to write to her. I wrote her a long letter last week which will relieve her fears as to my health.

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being able to take no food, or very little, and at last was so weak that the doctor said I must take champagne - and, opposed as I was to it, there seemed nothing else to do. He and Miss Childs had decided, before we reached Liverpool, that I must not go by the Mediterranean - and were very glad to find the arrangements made for me to go with her. She had planned to stay in Liverpool a few days until I should be able to travel. On Tuesday A.M. however, I was so much better that I dressed myself and walked off from the steamer instead of being carried. Since that day I have been perfectly well, while Miss Childs has felt dizzy and had headache a good deal.

She has been so kind to me. No one could have done more, even an own sister. I enjoy every

It was not to write a business letter that I sat down this quiet Sabbath afternoon. Somehow my thoughts turned to the home land, and the dear friends left behind. Then I thought of the "good bye" at the Steamer - and of how good you have always been to me - and I felt that I must write a few words to you and tell you how God has cared for us all the way. Every step has been made so plain and easy, and we are so thankful.

Not once, even when I was the sickest, on the ocean, has there been a moment when I would have gone back, nor a moment of fear of danger. I am very glad I am going to try to do some of God's work, but I do desire to be led by His Spirit so that I can do it aright. Sometimes it almost frightens me to think what responsibilities will rest upon me. I shall feel sure that you, and many others, are remembering me in prayer.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Kindness of Miss Child.

Salonica, Turkey

Sept. 27. 1888.

Dear Dr. Clark; Mrs Matthews

Yours of Aug. 17. was received a few days ago. I intended to write you again after we reached Munich, but there was very little time. I sent you a letter from London.

The journey across the continent was very pleasant. Miss Childs was the best of company.

Her marriage to Mr. Mead took place at the Home last Thursday, at 11 A.M. There was quite a gathering of Americans for the occasion, and all seemed to enjoy it.

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Mr. Bond
paying m
expenses
&c. to M
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account of

Most sincerely
Mary L. Matt

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Mr. Bond was waiting for me at Constantinople, and we came ~~of~~ on a steamer leaving Sat. P.M. and arriving here this morning. We expect to be "at home" by Wednesday night.

It really seems, now, as if Monastir is my *home*, and still the dear ones in America are no less dear, but rather, *more* so. The first letter from Mother was put into my hands as I left Constantinople. She told of the death of her only sister, but she said she thought more of the joy in heaven than of the sorrow here, for now the loved ones there will know of the work I have undertaken. I wish I might be worthy of such a mother as I have, committed to me. I am very thankful for the privilege of service in this country where the need is so great.

The only regret I have in connection with the journey is that it was necessarily so expensive. We spent several days in Munich, a week or more in Salzburg, and four days in Vienna, all of which were of interest; but we should not have spent so much time on the way if we could have been accommodated at the "Home" sooner. It was rather inconvenient, as it was just at the beginning of the new school year. Mr. & Mrs. Barnum took me to their home, and were very kind.

Do not fear for my health. I am much better than when I

"There are mountains in nearly all directions, some of them quite high, and they are not quite so brown and barren as those we passed on the way.

Our school building, is quite a nice one for this country, and the rooms which we use are very convenient. Miss Cole and I enjoy being together. She said she would like to write to you, but I do not know as she will have time today. She will tell you about the school when she writes. We have four new pupils, today.

Your letters are always gladly received, and I hope they will come as often as is convenient for you.

Very sincerely yours,
Mary L. Matthews.

Miss Mary L. Ma

✓

Monastir, Macedonia,
Oct. 9. 1888.

Dear Dr. Clark;-

I find I have not sent the blank which Mr. Chapin requested me to fill out and return to you, and will start it on its way by the next post. I filled a blank like this, in Boston, and left in care of Miss Abby Child, but it may have been mislaid.

I wrote you a letter from Salonica, on the 24th ult. Our journey from there was a pleasant one - a ride of six hours on the cars, and a drive of sixty miles by carriage from Gradsko.

I have felt very well indeed since I came. I think I must have gained five pounds in the last two weeks. Mr. Bond says that is because we are boarding at his house! Mrs. Bond is very good to us. I felt at once that I was among true friends.

I have been spared the homesickness which I so much dreaded, and am enjoying the preparation for the new work. I have five lessons a week in Bulgarian, and can write, and form short sentences, besides having learned a few words to speak to the people as they come to greet us after services.

The people of the church are all very cordial and kind.

I did not tell you that as we

reached the city. On our arrival, we were met by the missionary friends and teachers who had a hearty welcome ready. A little farther on we found the school-boys, who touched their hats politely, and then came to shake hands. The girls were waiting for us, too, and crowded eagerly about the carriage in which I was riding with Mrs. Bond and Russell and Miss Cole, to kiss me and say "welcome." It was impossible not to love them at once. They sang a song of welcome, in English, which almost started the tears, it was so sweet.

I do not see why God should have given me this work, but I am very glad He has.

Monastir is a pleasant place.

Monastir, Turkey.
Jan. 30. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.
Congregational House,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Clark:-

I was surprised, lately, to find that I had not answered your letters of Oct. 9 & 27. It does not seem possible that three months have passed since the last one was received. I would have written last week, but waited to send one of my photographs, which were not finished then. I had a few taken, for Mother's sake, before "doing up" my hair. They are better than I expected to get here.

Another term of school opened last week and we have settled down to regular duties again, after the festivities of *two* Christmases! Of course we celebrated our own day. We had dinner and a tree at Mrs. Bairds, and all seemed very happy.

On Jan. 8 we had a tree, here, for our girls

After all the gifts were distributed — and the tree was bare — we played games with them.

I wish you could come into our cheery sittingroom. The windows are filled with plants, and today there is a flood of sunshine, which is most acceptable after so much cloudy weather as we have had.

Miss Cole and I have not yet begun to keep house, as Mrs. Bond has been willing to board us but if the Annual Meeting should be here in the Spring, we shall be ready to help entertain guests.

It seems, sometimes, as if I am very lazy. I do enjoy the rest and freedom from care and responsibility, and there is always something to do to occupy the time when I am not studying. But I have very little to do with the school. I play the organ at morning prayers, and arrange the topics for a Bible class (of seniors) which recites in English, and is taught by Miss Cole.

Mr. Cyriac comes five times a week for my lessons in Bulgarian, and is a good teacher. He says I am doing pretty well, though it doesn't always seem so to me. I have my first lesson in the Grammar, this afternoon, having spent the past months in learning to read, write, and translate. There is a facination about it that makes it pleasant work.

It would be a real treat to hear a sermon in English! But we make up for such privations, so far as possible, by good reading. Very often, after attending Bulgarian services I feel hungry for the religious privileges, which I did not always appreciate at home.

I'm trying to follow your advice as to sleep and exercise, and am very well. We have a new way of taking exercise — new, at least to the natives. Mr Bond had skates made for himself, Russell and Miss Cole, and we go outside of the city, to a nice little pond, where we enjoy the use of them. The people here never saw any one skate before, ~~and~~ they gather about to watch us, and say, "wonderful work!"

Your letters are a help - as are all the assurances of the interest and prayers of friends

Yours very sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

P.S. Miss Cole says if you have-n't one of her pictures she will send one, but she thinks you have one. M. L. M.

Rec'd Feb. 18

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Monastir, Macedonia.
Turkey, Europe.
May 8. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.
Congregational House, Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Clark;-

It does not seem possible that my last letter to you was written more than three months ago, the time slips away so quickly. Your letters of Feb. 4 and 19 were duly received, and were very welcome, as your letters always are.

The great event of the spring - to me, at least, - was the Annual Meeting of our mission at Samokov. At first it did not seem practicable for me to attend, as the Bonds would return via Constantinople, and I could not do that. The difficulty was removed, however, by Mr. Baird's decision to attend, for I could return with him.

We started four weeks ago today, at noon, spent that night in a khan at Prilep, and the next at Gradsko. Friday noon found us on the train, our party consisting of Mr. & Mrs. Bond, Russell, Mr. Baird and myself. We reached Nisch at 10 P.M. After a comfortable night at a hotel, we took an early train which brought us into Sophia at noon. We had hoped to find conveyances to take us to Samokov that day, but failing in this, went to a hotel to wait until Monday morning. On the Sabbath we attended services at the new Protestant church. It is a very neat, attractive building - The pastor seems devoted to his people. We were invited to take tea with his family, and enjoyed the occasion very much.

Monday was occupied with the journey from Sophia to Samokov. Before reaching the latter city we were met by Miss Maltby, Dr. Haskell, Mr. Marsh, Dr. Kingsbury, and three of the missionary boys, who gave a cordial welcome. A number of the students in the Boys' School walked out to meet us.

I was the guest of Miss Graves and Miss Maltby, during that delightful week, sharing the room with Miss Stone - It was a great pleasure to make the acquaintance of so many new friends, with several of whom I had already corresponded. Every day was full of enjoyment from business meetings to horse-back and visiting occupied every available moment. And the children were so happy it was a pleasure just to watch them. The older boys had been given the use of a camera, and were deeply interested in the mysteries of photography. Some of their work was quite creditable for beginners.

The one thing which I had anticipated more than any other was the Annual sermon in English, and I was not disappointed. Mr. Locke preached an excellent sermon from 1 Thes. 1:3. Then followed the observance of the Lord's Supper, with remarks by Dr. Riggs and Dr. Greene. It was a blessed time of communion and reconsecration, which I shall love to recall if I should live to be as old as dear Dr. Riggs. His presence seemed like a benediction and his words were always helpful. The devotional exercises and prayermeeting of that week were refreshing, and also the personal words of encouragement and cheer from the missionaries. I shall always be thankful that I could attend the Annual Meeting this first year. It gave me new views of the wor
and a new sense of "belonging" to the missi
and greater joy that I could enter this fi
I think the Lord chose it for me, and i

much better than to have chosen for myself.

The past months have seen some progress in the study of Bulgarian, tho' it seems to me I'm very stupid. I can read and write, and have some grammatical knowledge of the language; now I must give special attention to speaking it. I have translated two dialogues for use at the closing exhibition in June - corrected, of course, by my teacher.

Miss Cole sends her best regards to you, and says she would be glad to write, but she is very busy this week.

Wed. May 29.

This letter should have reached you ere this, but it has been waiting for me to be well enough to finish it. Three weeks ago - because walking on the stony streets hurts my feet very much - we went out in the yard after dinner and sat on the grass, spreading something to sit on. It seemed quite dry, and we enjoyed the air. I did not think we were imprudent, but the result, for me, was an
ttack of acute rheumatism, from which I am
pi
new dly recovering. Miss Cole took the best of care
cosses and a Greek physician helped me much.
hope to avoid sickness in the future. There isn't
from buit here. I'm nearly as well as ever, now.

Very sincerely yours, Mary L. Matthews.

May 8, 1889
Monastir

Monastir, Turkey Europe.
Oct. 19. 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Clark;-

Your letter, bearing date four months ago, is still unanswered. It is hard to realize that it has been waiting so long. I have intended to write, but before school opened I was very lazy, and since that time have been as busy.

We were very sorry indeed to learn of your illness, and hope you are quite well, now, and that you could be in New York this week. You would be greatly missed if unable to be at the Annual Meeting. How delightful it would be to attend one of those great gatherings! But we must content ourselves with reports.

Tonight I am sitting in the classroom with our boarders while they study. There are ten of them this year, four of whom have come for the first time. These are from nine to thirteen years of age, and are from Radovich and vicinity. They seem quite happy, now, tho' they were homesick at first. They are very interesting, and are quite ready to regard all rules and requests.

The summer vacation was a quiet and restful one. Miss Cole spent most of it in Samokov; and I staid alone, having our servant sleep in the building, and I took dinners with the Bonds. The opportunity for extra sleeping was improved to the utmost, and I am in better health than for many years. Care of the building, supplies for the school and for ourselves, and a good deal of reading, gave me enough to do, besides teaching a S.S. class in Bulgarian for nine weeks.

Miss Cole returned, about the middle of August, accompanied by Mr. Barnum of Constantinople, whose visit we enjoyed greatly.

On Sept. 4 we began another school year with twenty-one pupils enrolled, and the number has reached thirty five, now — one more than the total for last year.

Tues. even. Oct. 29.

Ten days have passed quickly, but I will try to finish this letter for tomorrow's post. You will be wondering why you do not hear from us.

My work this year is very pleasant. I have three classes, — two in English and one in Bulgarian, — and am studying the language.

We like to keep house much better than to board, and when you come to Turkey again we shall be glad to have you visit us.

For some time we have thought of buying horses in order to get more exercise, as the stony streets make walking very hard. But there are several reasons for not doing so, besides the expense, and we could not use them often enough to keep them in good order, so we gave up that plan, and are saving for a trip next Summer. The Bairds have helped us out of our present difficulty by suggesting that we hire horses once or twice a week. Mr. Baird made special efforts to find a reliable man, who could furnish gentle horses, and himself accompanies us. The rides do us good, and thus far the plan seems all that we could wish.

We enjoy the neighborly way in which Mr. Baird comes in to call, and Mrs. Baird is ever ready to aid us as she can - as, also, are the Bonds.

Mrs. Bond was better and came to church last Sunday, but has not been as well since then. A physician from the city is attending her and we hope for her speedy recovery.

Speaking of the Bairds reminds me of a matter of which I wished to ask, before mentioning it to them. There is a bedroom suite here, which Miss Crawford brought, and which is unused now. As it is not of the most convenient style it was thought by some of the ladies of the station that I might not be satisfied with it, and that it would be better for me to bring what I chose. My selection included two single beds in place of a double one, and these have been worth more than the extra expense, as by our present arrangement Miss Cole and I share our bedroom and parlor. The bed of Miss Crawford's suite has no springs and the washstand is very small. Still, it is good strong furniture and has been well kept. It doesn't seem right to have it here where it cannot be used, and we have talked of selling it. But the Bairds have no chamber furnitu so good as this and we wonder if it would not be well to have it placed in one of their unfurnished rooms, that they may have the use of it, especially as the next Annual Meeting may be held in Monasti They would not wish this to be done without consent from Boston, I am sure, as they are very conscientious about the use of articles or funds belonging to the Board and I do not think they would feel like buying it so I have taken the liberty of writing to you about it

There are a few articles still left from the outfits of former teachers which possibly can be sold soo

Miss Spooner had a very nice saddle, which am enjoying at present, but, as I have no right to her outfit, as well as my own, and I cannot buy it now. I am willing to pay for the use of it — at least, the interest on the money it cost

Nov. 4. Mon. even.

My haste to finish this letter last week was all in vain, — and I am not sorry, for now Miss Cole will write, also. If you could come into our cozy parlor and we could have a good long talk with you it would be so much nicer than writing. There are so many things which are hardly worth writing about, or are difficult to express in that way. And I really wish you could see our home — not that it is so elegant — but somehow everything seems to harmonize, and the plants in the windows and the sunshine help to make it very pleasant. But it will be less bright and "homey" if Miss Cole is away next year. I think she needs the change, and I know how very anxious her mother is to see her. So I have consented to try to spare her next year, but shall be very glad when she returns.

Just here I will ask if there is any kind of a certificate which could be given me, from Mt. Holyoke Semy, to show that I had *part* of the course of study. I am sorry I did not finish the course. A new reason for wishing a testimonial has come to mind recently. The government expects teachers, in any school, to be ready to show their diplomas to its representatives whenever they call for them. Last summer an inspector came to see our school, and he asked if I had a diploma. I was obliged to own that I had none, but said that Miss Cole had one. He did not ask to see it. It occurred to me that in the future it might make trouble that I have no testimonial from any school. My health was not sufficient to allow me to finish the senior year in the Oberlin High School - or the Seminary course at South Hadley. As you are a trustee of the latter institution, I think you will know if such a certificate can be obtained. The *larger* such a paper is, the better it satisfies the Turks, who are as ignorant *after* seeing it as *before* of a teacher's real qualifications or lack of them!

Now, last but most discouraging to us, is the question of the support of our boarders. For several years the *nominal* charge for board has been ten liras per year, but I can not learn that *any* pupil has paid that sum. The smallest amount for which a pupil has been received is three liras. Of the ten girls, now in the boarding department, only two pay this sum. Two others work for Miss Cole and myself, and thus continue their studies with some degree of independence. Mr. Bond supports another from "tithes". Funds have been promised, by friends in America, which will support three more – (only $5. of this money was solicited.) – The remaining two girls pay one lira each, leaving us to make up the rest as we can. The people plead poverty, and many are indeed very poor, but they manage in some way to lay by something with which to marry their daughters. They seem to think that if they say they cannot pay for their girls to be here, we will arrange for their expenses rather than allow them to leave school, and this has been true in many cases. Although stated in the "Manual" that missionaries are not expected to assume the support of pupils, it has seemed the only way to maintain the boarding department.

There is now serious doubt in our minds – Miss Cole's and mine – as to the wisdom of continuing this aid, because of the dependent spirit which it begets in the people. What is your opinion on the matter? We wish to do right

One other question — Since we are house keeping is it expected that we will pay a part of the salary of the servant who makes purchases for the school and for us? There is a difference of opinion in the station on this matter. Miss Cole understands that it is customary for the American teachers to have the services of such persons without charge. Does it alter the case that we do not pay our board into the school-treasury but make our purchases independently

This has grown into a long letter, and I am sorry that it is so full of difficulties. Your position must be a very trying one, I am sure, and I wish I could assist in some way, instead of presenting more points for your consideration. I do not wish to convey the idea that we have only discouragements to report. In many ways the school is in better condition than last year. It is our prayer that all who are under instruction here may gain the highest knowledge and be fitted for the Master's service and gladly enter it.

With kindest regards, very sincerely,
Mary L. Matthews.

Rec'd Nov. 23. 1889.

Monastir, Turkey in Europe.
Dec. 27. 1889.

ev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Clark;-

I wish very much to ask you if you think Miss Cole and I have taken the right course, under peculiarly trying circumstances. Will you kindly give us your own opinion?

There is much sickness in Monastir this winter, - small pox, diphtheria, scarlet-fever, and measles. As our girls have been vaccinated we do not fear the first. But Emma Baird and four other day pupils are sick with scarlet-fever. Our primary dept. was reduced from twenty to half that number, last week, and we never felt sure that some contagious disease would not be brought in the clothing of the city pupils. Feeling anxious for the safety of our ten boarders, we consulted the trustees about closing the day dept. and continuing the classes of the boarders, for this week and next, previous to our usual vacation (Jan. 6-20) thinking that in four weeks much danger would be past.

Mr. Bond said his judgment was that it would be useless to close school, for it would not be perfect quarantine unless we should keep the boarders away from church services and S.S. also. He threw back upon us the responsibility of closing or not closing school. Mr. Baird did not take very decided ground on either side, but seemed rather to favor closing, as the pupils would lose less than if the school were broken up by sickness. Miss Cole is the only one of us teachers who has had scarlet-fever, and the burden of sickness would be too heavy for her to carry without aid from Miss Rada and myself. In case of necessity our assistance would be given most cheerfully. Furthermore, our one sick-room is next to the girls' dormitory, and the door between them is not tight. It would be impossible to prevent exposure of others if one were to have a contagious disease. For a long time we have done what we could to protect the girls - by burning sulphur in the school-room after each public service (as people from all parts of the city attend these meetings,) keeping the girls away from the women as much as possible, &c.

The question about closing school was a weighty one for us to settle; but the final decision being left with Miss Cole and myself, we tried to look at both sides fairly, and decided to close school and quarantine the girls as thoroughly as we could. As they are in a class with women, in S.S. we kept them away last Sabbath, having them meet as a class upstairs, with a teacher. We allow them to attend church and prayer-meeting, as we can seat them so that they will not be near any outsiders, and we send them from the room immediately at the close of services. It is foolish to carry the matter so far? Many cases of this disease have been light, but not all. There have been a number of deaths from it, in the city. Our bookseller's youngest child is to be buried today. She died of scarlet-fever yesterday afternoon. No matter of what disease a person dies, here, no one thinks of anything but a public funeral, and the body is carried, uncovered, to the cemetery. People seem to believe that a man has done all the harm he can when he is dead". Our day pupils, doubtless, will be in attendance upon this funeral - some of them at least - and, if we had school they might bring it in their clothing, as it must have been brought to Emma Baird. We have taken Ethel Baird into the boarding dept. to relieve her mother who has her hands full caring for the little ones who have scarlet-fever and measles. It is very hard for Mrs. Baird, and so little can be done by any of us, to help her.

Our Heavenly Father has been very kind to us, and has kept us as a family from any severe sicknesses this year, for which we thank Him every day.

I am sorry it is necessary to bring any names into this letter. I do not wish to involve anyone else or lay any blame upon the trustees. I believe each may be honest in his own opinions, tho' both do not always see matters in the same light.

Is it proper for me to ask your judgment in a case like this? There are special reasons, which cannot be explained here, why we wish to know if we have made a mistake. If so, we are very sorry, but it seemed to us right, even to keep the girls from S.S.

Rec'd Jan. 27

Jan. 9 - '90.

Your letter of Dec. 7. was received, but the one which you mentioned having sent before that has not appeared. I fear it was lost. Will it trouble you too much to reply once more to my questions?

This letter I detained, hoping to get yours by a later post, but must send it now.

Very sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Riggs Rev. Elias, D. D.

264-308-

Constantinople, Oct. 18. 1880.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Our son Charles left us Sept. 29th on his way to Aintab. At Smyrna he joined the party going to Aintab and Marash (Mr. Lee &c.) and we have today heard of them at Scanderoon, where they were carried safely & pleasantly. We trust those going to Aintab reached there a week ago or more.

The accompanying letter from Mr. Trowbridge also reached me today. I am sorry that it must be so late in reaching you, probably not getting to you before the annual appropriations are made. When at Aintab we conversed on the way in which the publication of Prof. Bezjian's Introduction to the English Language could be provided for. As the London Rel. Tract Society has published a number of scientific works, a History of the Ottoman Empire &c. we thought it not improbable that they would consent to aid in the publication of this work, and in connexion with an application to them for such aid I gave the following statement.

"I have revised with Prof. A. Bezjian his Introduction to the English Language, consisting of a Grammar and Exercises in translating from

English into Turkish and from Turkish into idiomatic English, on the Ollendorff method, the whole in Turkish in the Armenian character, for the use of students in the Central Turkey College and wherever the Turkish language is spoken among Armenians. I regard it as well adapted to its object, carefully prepared and thorough. It will make a duodecimo volume of some 400 pages, and can be published at Constantinople, an edition of 3000 copies costing I should think about £300."—

The study of the English language is important for all in this land who desire a liberal education, on account

(1) of the rich supply of text-books in all departments to which it will introduce them, a supply which in the Turkish language, notwithstanding the utmost exertions which can be hoped for, must, at least for the present generation, be extremely limited;

(2) of the varied and instructive general literature of which the English language is the storehouse; &

(3) of the mental culture which they may derive from that study. The idioms of our language differ far more from those of the Turkish than

they do from those of Latin, Greek, or Hebrew; so that the mental discipline which the study of English offers to one whose native language is Turkish is quite as great as that which English students can derive from the study of any one of our learned languages.

(4) It may be added that as British influence increases in Turkey the practical value of a knowledge of the English language to the educated young men of the country will be correspondingly increased."

The Tr. Soc. declined, expressing the desire that what they can give us from year to year should be employed in the production of tracts. I do not know why they should adopt a different policy abroad from what they do at home. However they declined, and the manuscript beautifully copied remains here in my possession.

If the field for the circulation of the work were wider some native publisher might be induced to undertake the publication on his own account. But in the greater part of the fields of the Eastern & Western Turkey missions, such a help would be sought in Armenian & not in Turkish.

Thus, the region needing this book is the field of the C. T. mission and the Southern part of that of the W. T. Mission.

Best of all perhaps would be if some friend or friends of the College would furnish it with the funds necessary for the publication. If this cannot be secured, I would cordially second the application of the C. T. mission for a grant from the Board for this purpose. — A smaller edition might be printed, but in that case the cost would be more per volume. I sincerely hope some provision may be made for the publication of this work.

One thing more occurs to me. Should you think favorably of publishing this work and yet not feel that so much could be appropriated at once, you might authorize the work to be commenced, and our Pub. department here might advance part of the needed funds. This is only a suggestion of my own. But I am not willing to detain the letter over a single mail.

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd Nov. 5.

At Dr. Riggs request I have consulted with Mr Pettibone and in behalf of the Publication Department express our approval of the suggestion at the close of the above letter E. E. Bliss.

Constantinople, Mar. 15. 1881.

Rev. Dr. Clark, Sec. A.B.C.F.M.

Dear Brother,

Thanks for your kind letter of Jan. 1. Of course I do not expect special answers to all my letters. I myself write comparatively little because the uniformity of my work furnishes little to be reported. I have made out our report of Bulg. printing during 1880, and find that it amounts to over five million pages. We have much encouragement to go forward in this work. Our papers have more subscribers than any others printed in the country, although they maintain a decidedly evangelical character. — An ed. of 5000 copies, of the *Tract Primer* having been printed & exhausted in 1879, we printed 5000 more last year, and now these are nearly all gone.

We rejoice in the prospect of having another visit from you. Your telegram informs us that a deputation is coming, and we take it for granted that you will be on it. We trust that He who holds the winds & waters in the hollow of his hand, whose we are & whom we serve, will bring you to us in peace, and that you will be able to attend the meeting of the Eur. T. Mission as well as that of the W. T. M. It is not yet fully decided either when or where our meeting is to be held. Monastir and Philippopolis have both been proposed, and it has been under consideration whether to have it before or after the meeting of the W. T. M. In view of the prospect of having the Deputation with us it seems to Bro. Byington and myself that the later time should be fixed upon, (say the 7th of June), and that it would probably be easier for you to attend if the meeting be held at Philippopolis. We shall correspond with the brethren, and I presume this will be our plan.

I have put up copies of our Bulgarian books & tracts published during 1879 & 1880 for the Library of the Board, — two copies of each, writing in them in English what they are, & have suggested to Mr. Pettibone to do the same in reference to the Arm. & Arm. Turkish books & tracts. The package awaits the sending of a box to Boston.

There is much apprehension of disturbances in Macedonia, and this seems to us an additional reason for holding our meeting in Philippopolis rather than in Monastir. We hope that the Greek boundary question will be settled without war. But even if it should be, that will not in-sure quiet in Macedonia or Albania. We try to realize to ourselves that God reigns and will bring good out of evil, but we often feel like sighing, Oh Lord, how long? I suppose you were startled yesterday, as well as we, with the telegraphic announcement that the Emperor of Russia had been assassinated only the day before.

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice."

Your brother in Christ

Elias Riggs.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Sec. A.B.C.F.M.

Constantinople, Jan. 15. 81
Recd. Apr. 8

Constantinople, May 20. 1881.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I have received your favor of April 9. I need not say that we all regret that it was not possible for you or Dr. Alden to visit us this year. The Memorandum I have no doubt will be very useful. So far as I know the brethren all cordially concur in its suggestions and statements. Its influence on our native friends must be good.

We have heard of the safe arrival of Dr. Kingsbury & party at Samokov. Mr. Dwight & family arrived safely yesterday and were heartily greeted by the members of the W.T. mission now at the An. meeting, which commenced on Tuesday the 17th. inst.

My special object in writing now is to say that Mrs. Riggs and I are proposing, (with Bro. Byington's cordial approval), to join the friends going eastward at the close of the annual meeting here, and go, Providence permitting to Marsovan for a visit of perhaps two months to our children there. As in the case of our visit to Aintab, I shall not ask for any extra appropriation for the expenses of the journey. In addition to other considerations favoring such a visit I trust it will be beneficial to the health of both Mrs. R.

and myself, and I shall hope also not to be idle while there.

Another matter (not of great consequence) concerning which I was intending to speak with you if I had had the pleasure of seeing you here. When in Killis on my way to Aintab I found the pastor of the church there trying to get from books some knowledge of Hebrew. He came to me with a number of questions which of course I was glad to answer. The only grammar which he had was that first published by Prof. Stuart, without points, printed in 1813. It was extremely rare when I was a student at Andover 50 years ago. This copy has in it the name of Pliny Fisk and the card of the "Library of the A. B. C. F. M. Beyroot." How it came in Killis the pastor did not know. Of course he had no claim on it. I proposed to take charge of it and to send him instead a copy of Gesenius' Grammar as a present. This I did, and he was glad to get what would be far more useful to him than the old relic. I now send it to you, (in a box which Mr. Pettibone will send in a few days), thinking that as a relic it more appropriately belongs at Boston than at Beyroot. But of this you can judge. I remain

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd June 13

Marsovan, July 12. 1881.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Bro. Byington wrote me after returning from the annual meeting of our mission at Samokov, and after mentioning in a few lines the discussion on the Philippopolis case, said, as I understand his letter, that the meeting found itself unable to reach any satisfactory solution of the question, and so refer the matter back to Boston, with the understanding that each member write you his views. He also desired me to write you on the subject. In complying with this suggestion I labor under a great disadvantage in knowing nothing whatever of the course which the discussion took, or of any proposed possible solution. I will however say a few words. Last year I was present at the annual meeting, when a whole day was given to the matter. The impression made on my mind, and I should think on the minds of the brethren generally, was that there was *nothing* in what Mr. Marsh brought forward *which ought to have disturbed the relations of missionary associates*. So when the suggestion was made that Mr. Locke should join the station, Mr. Marsh accepted it as giving hope that they could go on comfortably with their work, and the mission, so far as I remember unanimously, adopted it. As Mr. Locke did not come *via* Constantinople, and has never written us on the subject, we do not know what were the considerations which led him to decide against going to Philippopolis. I suppose of course he explained them fully to you.

I think it not improbable that one thing which has disturbed Mr. Marsh has been Mr. Bond's habit of bantering. But he did not bring any thing of that kind forward, either last year at the meeting or this year during his visit at Constantinople. Messrs. Byington & Baird and I conversed freely with him, and tried to see if we could find any practicable plan to propose at the Annual Meeting. The only thing which he alleged was that Mr. Bond _seemed to favor_ Mrs. Mumford when in Mr. M's opinion the interests of her work were opposed to those of the work of our mission. He did not state any thing which seemed to us to prove that his general impression was well grounded. It seemed to us plainly Mr. Marsh's duty to let Mrs. Mumford alone, but he could not see it to be so. Whatever be the merits or demerits of Mrs. Mumford's course, it seemed to us that missionaries of the Board should treat her kindly & courteously, and Mr. Bond constantly avers that this is all that he has sought to do. Nothing that Mr. Marsh brought forward seemed to us to show that Mr. Bond had gone beyond this.

It seemed to me a very extraordinary, & indeed unprecedented thing for the Pru. Committee, usually so cautious and considerate, to decide on ex parte evidence, not only that Mr. B. should leave Philippopolis, but that the mission should consider whether he ought not to leave the mission.

I was also surprised at a remark in one of your letters to the mission that I was understood to favor Mr. Bond's cause. I am in favor of simple judicial fairness in examining such a case.

On our journey hither we were favored with a perfectly smooth passage over the "inhospitable sea". The land journey also was made with comparative comfort. Here we have rejoiced with our dear Edward and Sarah in the goodness of God to them in giving them another son, born on the 3d. inst.

The missionaries here are earnestly employed in their most useful labors. I have rendered a little assistance in instructing the Greek Theological students, & have preached twice. Today I gave three hours, as did also Messrs. Herrick and Tracy, to attending a meeting called for promoting the enterprise of founding a High School here.

We have not definitely fixed on a time for returning to Constantinople. Providence permitting, I think we shall start in about five weeks.

In regard to the matters discussed at the meeting of the Eur. T. Mission you will of course confer with Bro. Smith. — As there is as yet no formal association of the churches, the Bulg. Evangelical Society comes the nearest possible to a body representing them. It comprises all the Pastors and the principal laymen. In regard to Mr. Belden's work & plans I have heard nothing. May the Lord graciously guide you & us in all things.

Your affectionate brother in the gospel
Elias Riggs.

Recd Aug. 8

Bond & March

Constantinople, Sept. 24. 1881.

Rev. Dr. Clark,

My dear brother,

I wrote you in July from Marsovan. We left that place on the 7th inst. and were brought in safety to our home here on the 12th. Goodness & mercy have followed us all the way, and in reference to the visit and the journey both ways we have abundant cause for thanksgiving. The last sabbath of our stay there we had a Communion season, in which I took part by request of the church. Indeed we delayed our departure a week in order to unite with them in this ordinance. On this occasion Mr. Herrick's son George communed for the first time.

While at M. I made out notes of passages in the Revised Version of the N. T. in which I should prefer different renderings from those given by the revisers, adding occasionally notes explanatory of my reasons for such preference, after the manner of my "Suggested Emendations of the A. V. of the O. T." — I feel like saying, as did Elihu after listening to the friends of Job, "I also will shew mine opinion." — As it seems to me almost certain that a reexamination and modifications of the Rev. Version will be needed before its general acceptance (perhaps in connexion with the publication of the Rev. Ver. of the O. T.) any hints of the kind I might furnish *might be* of practical value. They might be printed cheaply in pamphlet form, or in some periodical. — Even should they not be printed, I think that as I can get time, I will complete and copy them & send them to you.

I will not attempt to write of other matters at present. Indeed, I do not know that I can suggest any thing which would aid in deciding any of the questions which relate to our work in these parts, and which are now occupying your attention.

We mourn, with our whole country, at the untimely death of our respected President. But we trust, that even this sad event will in God's mercy be made a means of good to our land. Indeed we trust it has been already.

Mrs. Riggs and I have entered upon our fiftieth year of married life & of missionary service. We desire to consecrate our remaining days to Him, who has ever blessed us and graciously borne with our infirmities and transgressions.

Desiring fraternal & affectionate remembrance to Mrs. Clark on behalf of both Mrs. Riggs and myself, I remain

Your affectionate brother,

Elias Riggs.

P.S. *Oct. 3.* Mr. Belden and family have arrived on their way to the U.S. I presume Bro. Byington will write you respecting our consultation as to the question of trying to retain them here, especially in view of the possibility that Mr. Byington may feel next spring that he must take his invalid boy to the U.S. Mr. Belden seems to feel that if he should stay it would be as an *experiment* and tem*porarily*. My own feeling is that unless he feels *called of God* to the work of promoting the gospel in this land, unless he can say, Woe is me if I preach not the gospel to the Bulgarians, he has so little prospect of overcoming obstacles and making his work a success, that it is hardly worth while to prolong the experiment.

Dr. Byington has today rec. your letter respecting the final action of the Pru. Com. on the Philippopolis case. I have barely glanced over it, but I trust the result is the right one, and I earnestly hope Br. Marsh will frankly accept it, and do his part toward carrying it into practice. We shall write him in this sense. E. R.

Rec'd Oct 26

of study. I had written favoring his taking a regular college course; but the High Schools have advanced so much in recent times that I do not know how far they become a substitute for a college course. It seems as if the dear boy should not feel compelled to work in such way or degree as to injure his health.

We have just parted with Dr. S. F. Smith & wife who have been with us for a fortnight; also with Dr. Wil. Calhoun & his sisters, who have been here on a visit, making their head quarters at Dr. E. E. Bliss's. They all go to Athens — three other American friends in the same party.

I hope you will not prolong your stay in England. We should be glad still to see you here on your way home, if possible.

Affectionately
Elias Riggs.

Constantinople, Oct. 28. 1881.

Dear Tillman,

I am sorry you have not kept us informed of the probabilities respecting your return. Last week we rec^d. Margaret's letter for you of the 6th inst. but I judged from the tenor of your note to Dr. Wood that it was too late to forward it to England, and three days ago I wrote you at some length and sent my letter to Aintab. To day comes Margaret's of Oct. 13th which implies that you are not improbably still in England, and so I forward the two at once.

The principal subject of my letter to you was Willie's circumstances and plans. I sent inclosed his last letter to me. I hope he has written fully to you and that you have answered him from England.

Willie wrote asking about the *use* of some money which we had sent. For the last three years his grandmamma has sent $50.- each year to aid in providing for his current expenses, and $5.- each year as a present to him to be used at his discretion. He wrote that he would like to use $20. for purchasing a military suit of clothes, as he is chosen *captain* of the company for military exercise in the school, and the rest for purchasing books.

Now I do not know any thing about this plan of military drills. If you know about it, you can advise him. If not, would you not do well to inquire of some one in America who can give you information as to its working & its importance?

We will be glad to aid some from year to year in W.'s support, but of course would like to do it in such way as not to embarrass you in any degree.

I wrote also asking about that money of Margaret's which was lent to the College. I think you said it amounted to about $1000. & that you purposed employing it for Willie's education. Has it been expended? If not, will you not see that it is? I think you might indeed with a very good grace insist upon this, in view of the amount which your visit has been the means of raising in England.

Willie is coming to man's estate, and must be trusted more & more to manage for himself.

I hope you have written him also in regard to his course

Constantinople, April 22. 1882.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I am sorry to learn, through the papers, that you were so unwell as to compel your withdrawal from official work. I trust it may please our Heavenly Father to give you speedy relief. I send the inclosed to you, because not certain into whose hands the ms. of my suggestions on the Revised Version has been put. Please pass it on to Prof. Thayer, if it is he to whom you have committed the ms. The ms. was sent Mar. 2d. and I wrote you again on the subject Mar. 13th I trust the ms. & both letters have reached you safely. I do not speak of this however as desiring that you should write to acknowledge them or this. Please do not think of doing so until it is quite convenient.

On the 20th ult. we had a fire in our immediate neighborhood which in three hours' time swept away seventy houses and shops, and which came within five or six rods of our premises. It pleased our gracious Protector not to permit our dwelling to be consumed. With the aid of friends, who came promptly to our assistance, we gathered together our most valuable things and put them in a state to be removed, if the danger should increase; but it did not become necessary to send any thing out of the house; and the next day we thankfully replaced them with the feeling that they had been given to us anew. I think I mentioned these things in a note to Mr. Ward.

I have been somewhat unwell for several weeks, but am much better and able to engage in my ordinary work.

Hoping that we may soon hear that you are quite restored, I remain

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

Rcd. 22, 1884

Constantinople, June 2. 1882.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Although pressed for time, I will not leave home without acknowledging your kind note of April 19th and the accompanying paper from the Pru. Committee & the executive officers of the A. Board. For both accept my sincere thanks.

I start, Providence permitting, tomorrow for Monastir in company with Mr. Bond & family, Mr. Thomson & Mr. Fowle (who goes as delegate from the W. T. M.) to attend the annual meeting of our Mission. Bro. Byington has not yet returned from Vienna, but I trust will not be long delayed. Mean time arrangements are made so that I trust the work here will not suffer. The mission is so small that it seemed clearly my duty to attend the meeting.

Of the meeting of the W. T. M. you will of course get full details from others.

Mrs. Trowbridge & her children are with us, and their presence with Mrs. Riggs during my absence these days will be a comfort to her.

If spared to return from this brief journey I hope to write you more fully.

Your aff. brother,
Elias Riggs.

Constantinople, June 2. 1882.

My dear Dr Clark,

Although pressed for time, I will not leave here without acknowledging your kind note of April 19th and the accompanying papers from the Pru. Committee & the appointment of Miss A. Bond. Do both accept my cordial thanks.

I start, Providence permitting, tomorrow for Monastir in company with Mr. Bond & family, Mr. Thomson & Mr. Bond (who goes as Delegate from the W.T.M.) to attend the annual meeting of our Mission. Dr. Riggs has not yet returned from Vienna, but I trust will not be long delayed. Hence time arrangements are made so that I trust the work here will not suffer. The Mission is so small that it seemed clearly my duty to attend the meeting.

Of the meeting of the W.T.M. you will of course get full details from others.

Mrs. Dwight & her children are with us, and their presence with Mrs. Riggs during my absence these days will be a comfort to her.

If spared to return from this brief journey, I hope to write you more fully.

Yours aff. brother

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd June 19.

Copy

"Monastir, Macedonia, June 15, 1882."

" Rev. E. W. Gilman, D.D.
Sec. Am. B. S.

My Dear brother,

The members of the Mission of the A. B. C. F. M. to European Turkey desire to send through you their fraternal salutations to their fellow laborers in the work of our common Lord & Savior, the members of the American Bible Society.

We are holding our annual meeting this year for the first time in this city. Since the recent political changes in the East our four stations fall under three different governments; that at Samokov under the Principality of Bulgaria, and that at Philippopolis under the autonomous gov't of Eastern Rumelia, while Constantinople and Monastir remain under the immediate jurisdiction of Turkey.

The review of the past year shows a steady advance in Bible work in these lands. During 1881, 1501 Bibles, 5184 N. Testaments, and 3104 portions, making 9789 volumes of scriptures in the Bulgarian language went into circulation within the bounds of our mission, and about as ma more within those of the M. E. Bulg. mission makin a fifth part of the entire issues of scripture i all languages for the Turkish empire, a propor considerably larger than that of the populatio of these fields to that of the whole empire.

The increased circulation of scriptures amo Mohammedans is also a ground of encourageme While but few of them venture to attend our ser and listen to the public preaching of the gosp many procure and read the blessed word. In a p of our field lying southward from the Samokov St a special interest has been manifested during th past year in the christian scriptures and more t usual desire to procure them. More than five thousand volumes of Turkish scriptures in the arabic character, which is the one used by M hammedans, were issued from the Bible house Constantinople during 1881. While we have reason t believe that the door of access to Mohammedans w be more and more widely opened in Bulgaria an Rumelia, we regret to say that with our present force it is impracticable for us to engage in direct labors for them. The living and mighty word can however be circulated among them a his good work we desire to promote as far as possible.

Where an intelegent Musselman, comes to examine the christian scriptures he finds himself in a remarkable dilemma. He cannot reject them for the sake of holding fast to the Koran, because he finds in the Koran, ~~becaus he finds in the Koran~~ itself about two hundred passages in which witness is borne to the Law of Moses and to the Gospel of Christ. and yet he must soon find that he cannot accept them and at the same time hold fast to the Koran Let us hope and pray that the principle of religeous liberty may speedily triumph in this land, as it seems to be triumphing in Spain and Italy. in China and Japan. and so that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified

With a prayer for an abundant blessing upon all your efforts to spread abroad everywhere the word of Life, I remain

In behalf of the Eu. T. M. of the A. B. C. F. M.

Your brother in Christ.

(signed) Elias Riggs."

Rec'd July 19.

believe that the [illegible]

Families [illegible] to [illegible]

force, it is impossible [illegible] engage in

direct labor for them. The heavy and mighty

work can however be [illegible] among them

On board French steamer Meander,
Egean Sea, June 23. 1882.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Our steamer has just left Neapolis, (now called Cavalla) the port of ancient Philippi, mentioned in Acts 16: 11 as the port where Paul landed when going by divine direction into Macedonia to preach the gospel.

In company with Mr. Thomson, and with Mr. Fowle (who went as delegate of the W. T. M.) I am returning from the first meeting of our mission held in Macedonia. Although the distance traversed has been greater than usual, and the cost of the journey correspondingly large, still I am glad that we have been permitted to hold our annual meeting in Monastir. Beside bringing us who went into fuller acquaintance and closer sympathy with those laboring in that frontier field, I trust our visit has strengthened their hands and encouraged the native brethren, and that this manifestation of sympathy and coöperation has made a good impression on outsiders also.

Mr. Bond will doubtless write you freely his impressions of his new field. Both he & Mrs. Bond seemed to very pleasantly impressed by the appearance of the country. I trust their going there will prove to be timely and for the best. It was happy for them & for us that there was no occasion for further considering the causes which led to the transfer.

We were at Monastir on two sabbaths. The preaching services were attended by about two hundred persons each time. In the afternoons of the two sabbaths, instead of the ordinary sabbath-school exercises, we had special meetings, the first for communicating missionary intelligence from our respective fields, and the second for a practical consideration of S. S. work & the study of the Word of God. In the evenings we had meetings in English the annual sermon being preached on the first and a communion season being enjoyed on the second sabbath.

Constantinople, June 30.

We were brought in safety to our journey's end on the 25th inst. with many occasions for thanksgiving and praise.

Thanks for your kind lines of May 28th which I found awaiting me.

As ever most truly yours,

Elias Riggs.

P.S. Our daughter Mrs. Trowbridge with her children reached us a week before I started for our An. meeting, and will spend the summer with us. Mr. Fuller will report fully respecting them & respecting our son Charles, who will probably make a short visit to Marsovan.

Recd July 3.

Recd June 23/83

[illegible]

passing each time. In the afternoons of these two Sabbaths, instead of the ordinary Sabbath-school exercises, we had special meetings, the first for communicating missionary intelligence from respective fields, and the second for a practical consideration of S. S. work & the study of the Word of God. In the evenings we had meetings in [illegible] the annual sermon being preached on the first, and a communion service being enjoyed on the second Sabbath.

Constantinople, June 20.

[illegible] in safety to our journey's end on the 25th ult. with many occasions for thanksgiving and praise.

Thanks for your kind letter of May 20th which I found awaiting me.

[illegible] most truly yours,

Elias Riggs

Const. [illegible] June 23, 1882
Rec'd July 18

Constantinople, Aug. 10, 1882.

My dear Dr. Clark,

You may have noticed in the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Eur. T. Mission that the plan hitherto pursued in regard to the circulation of our publications with rules for the "book department" in accordance with that plan, which rules the W. T. Mission had at its late annual meeting approved, was found to be inconsistent with instructions, or recommendations from the Missionary Rooms.

After returning from our meeting at Monastir I spoke to the brethren here of the necessity of our coming to a common understanding on the subject and adopting one or the other of the two plans. It is plain that we cannot keep both. As neither Mr. Pettibone (Sec. of the W. T. M.) nor Dr. I. G. Bliss (who superintends the Con'ple book depot) seemed inclined to write on the subject, I said that I would write.

The plan hitherto in use was for each station to ask an appropriation from the Board to meet the cost of conveying our publications from the central depot here to the stations, together with other expenses of getting them into circulation. The object of this arrangement, as I understand it, was to enable all the stations, however distant from the central depot to sell the books at the same price, so that *one* printed catalogue regulated the prices of our publications at Constple, Cesarea, Aintab, Monastir, &c. This plan was adopted in pursuance of instructions from the Missionary Rooms, and has been followed for

The other plan, suggested in your letter accompanying the appropriations for 1882, and also in a letter to Mr. Baird (recd. I think shortly before our meeting in Monastir, though I do not know the date,) is to advance the price of our publications so as to pay for the cost of transportation, &c. from the receipts for sales. With a view to the introduction of this new plan, the appropriations for this department for 1882 were made equal to two thirds of the estimates sent from the missions, and accompanied by the proposal to grant half this amount for 1883, and nothing for this purpose in 1884.

You can readily see that in a country like Turkey any such advance in the prices of our publications must *greatly* diminish the demand for them, and thus instead of bringing in funds to meet the necessary expenses of getting them into circulation; the total receipts must, probably for years to come, be much less than in the past, & (as the prices would be increased) the proportion of our publications put into circulation would be still more reduced. Now in choosing one or the other of these plans we should take this probable result into account. Of course we are anxious, not so much to get back the cost of the publications as to get them into the hands of readers to whom they may be spiritually useful.

Please consider this matter and give us the judgment of the Pru. Com. as to the way in which it should be managed. Our field is wide; the modes of communication are slow and clumsy; the cost of transportation of our publications is much greater in proportion to their value than it would be in the U.S. Is it best to throw this cost upon the prices of books sold at the remote stations, & so make their cost at those stations greater than here? The ability to purchase at those stations is naturally less than here, even while the prices are the same.

I would not have the Committee act in view of what I have written. They have before them the action of the two missions, the one endorsing the existing plan & rules, the other approving them so far as they do not conflict with instructions from the Pru. Com. and expressing the desire that a common understanding may be reached by all concerned.

Aug. 14. Since writing the above I have received your favor of July 18th.

With kindest remembrance to Mrs. Clark, I am

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

Mrs. R. and I often speak of your & Mrs. C's visit here with pleasure. She desires to unite in kindest remembrance to you both.

Yrs. E. R.

D. R. has
written desir-
ing copy of this
above - I have
written that he
should hear in due
time. E. 14. a
Dec. 14/82

Const^ple Aug 10. 1882
Rec'd Sept 1-2

Constantinople, Oct. 11. 1882.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I do not know but Mr. Trowbridge may have sent you a copy of the enclosed account of our anniversary. I understand that accounts of it have been sent to the Congregationalist and to the N. Y. Tribune. I did not feel like writing any thing about it myself. We were just overwhelmed by the manifestations of kindness and sympathy on the part of our friends, American & English, Armenians, Greek, &c.

I start tomorrow, D.V. for Smyrna to take part in the services at the dedication of their new church building. This at the urgent invitation of Mr. Bowen on the part of himself & others.

Dr. Thayer writes me that as he was leaving Andover and had also a work of his own in press at Cambridge he could not look after the printing of my notes on the Revised Version of the N. T. Will you kindly inquire what Mr. Draper has done about them. If *nothing* has yet been done, perhaps it would be as well to offer them to some periodical. They might appear in parts.
in case Mr. Draper had not already commenced printing them.
Similar criticisms have appeared in the Quarterly

Review and in several other quarterlies. The Quarterly Review has in its issues of October, January & April last three articles on the revision and the Greek text which forms its basis, each one occupying between 60 and 70 8vo. pages, each I presume containing more matter than the whole of my notes.

If Mr. Draper has begun, of course he had better go on & finish. Permit me to commit the whole to you. I wd. not ask your attention to it at all if I were not providentially at such a distance that I cannot attend to it in person.

You will probably have written before this reaches you on the subject of the book department, respecting which I wrote you August 10th.

I remain

Your aff. brother

Elias Riggs.

E. Riggs Oct 25

Constantinople, Nov. 23, 1882.

My Dear Dr. Clark,

On my repeating at our usual Sabbath service in Scutari this sermon preached by appointment before the Mission, some of my perhaps too partial friends suggested that it ought to be printed. Should you think that it would further the good cause, make any use of it which you think proper. It is brief. If printed, I would suggest that it be in a small form, 12mo or 16mo. — As to the title, do what you think best. Use, or not, my academic degrees, just as you believe that the cause of Christ will be best promoted. Also retain, or not, the "fifty years a missionary." I commit it entirely to your judgment.

My last was written about a month ago, and gave some account of the dedication of the church in Smyrna.

I hear nothing as yet about the printing of my Notes on the Revised English Version of the New Testament. Not that I am anxious to have them issued as a volume. The more I see of other reviews of that work, the more I feel the lack of my own means and facilities for reviewing it to good purpose. But if any thing is done with my notes, it should be done soon. I made in a previous letter the suggestion that they should be offered for publication to some Theological quarterly, in case Mr. Draper had not already commenced printing them.

I do not concur in the wholesale denunciations of the Quarterly Review. Yet I am firmly persuaded that the Revised Version is not at present in a state fitting it to be received as a substitute for the old Version. Also that it ought to be reëxamined in connexion with the revision of the version of the O. Testament.

As for Westcott & Hort's Greek Testament, instead of giving the Christian world a text which might have been accepted as the nearest possible approach to the original, I am persuaded that it has put back by a generation the general acceptance of any such text. They seem to me to have recklessly thrown away their opportunity, and in their whole work to have ventured beyond their depth. I cannot express the regret I feel at this result, and also that Dr. Schaff should have shown himself either equally reckless, or equally shallow, or both, in his unsparing eulogy of their work.

I know that you are pressed with many other engagements, but I hope you may find time before long to reply to what I wrote Aug. 10. in respect to the mode of arranging the expenses of the book department here. It seems important that all concerned should have a common understanding of the course to be pursued.

We have now received intelligence of the safe return of all our children to their homes. We may truly say, Our cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy have followed us hitherto and we know will follow us all the days of our life. May we be truly thankful.

We entered heartily as we always do into the spirit of the meeting of the Board. There are many things of which I should love to speak with you if it were permitted to us to meet, but it is impossible to enter upon them by correspondence.

I remain, your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

They [illegible]

[illegible]

also the [illegible]

[illegible]

original, [illegible]

a generation [illegible]

text. They [illegible] to have realized their [illegible] by their opportunity, [illegible] in the Bible work to [illegible] ventured beyond their depth. I [illegible] express the regret I feel at this result, and also that Dr. S[illegible] should have shown himself either equally reckless or equally shallow, or both, in his unsparing cul[illegible] of their work.

I know that you are pressed with many other engagements, but I hope you may find time before long to reply to what I wrote Aug 10 in respect to the mode of arranging the expenses of the book department here. It seems important that all concerned should have a common understanding of the course to be pursued.

Constantinople, Mar. 5. 1883.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I recd. yours of Jan. 8th. I do trust you will have strength given you according to your need. We pray for this constantly.

Dr. Byington & I have today consulted with the Com. of Publication of the W. T. Mission, and we were all agreed as to the desirableness of having the maps for our Bulgarian Bible Dictionary prepared in New York on the terms proposed by Rev. Dr. Stevenson, although the Am. Tr. Soc. make no further grant in aid of publications in Turkey for the coming year. — I have accordingly written Dr. Stevenson requesting that the maps be prepared as soon as practicable, & have sent him the *printed* Bulg. names for a part of the maps. The rest I will forward soon. I also told him that I would write you to this effect.

I recd. a few days ago a very kind letter from Dr. S. F. Smith, with some lines on the occasion of our golden wedding. It has been very pleasant to renew our acquaintance and warm friendship of more than 50 years standing.

Your affectionate brother,

Elias Riggs.

Bible House, Aug. 11. 1883.

Rec'd Sept. 3.

Dear Tillman,

The inclosed reached us last evening. I trust you will be carried in safety to your journey's end. I suppose that if you go by the Fr. Steamer there is no danger of your having quarantine complications on the way. Beyroot is now put in quarantine here.

I have not yet got an estimate from our printer for the things needed for your press, but I will endeavor to have the matter go forward without delay.

A new edition of our Bulgarian Hymn & Tune Book, submitted to the govt. Censorship three months ago, was yesterday returned to us with every hymn or verse stricken out which speaks of God or Christ as King of Zion, or of salvation by the blood of Christ. I shall try

376

show him the absurdity of these objections.

Pastor Mardiros leaves us today to return to Kharpoot.

Aff^ey your father

E. Riggs

279.

Constantinople. May 16. 1884.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I have rec.d your favors of Mar. 21 and April 9, and will not delay acknowledging them, although I cannot say much in reference to the recently published "Teaching of the twelve Apostles" or its editor Abp. Bryennios.

I have had barely time to read over the text of the work and to glance at a few of the notes. I see nothing in the language or allusions in the document inconsistent with the date assigned to it, viz. the early part of the second century. On the contrary the use of such terms as prophet, false prophet, teacher, try, &c. seems to accord entirely with their use in the N. Testament. Prof. Wm. Adams, quoted in the N. Y. Observer of Ap.l 24th calls this work apocryphal, and compares it with the "Gospel of the Infancy" & the "Testament [Testaments] of the twelve Patriarchs." It seems to me improper to designate a work as apocryphal unless it claims or purports to be what it is not. This is not the case with the work in question. There is an apocryphal book entitled "Teaching of the Apostles," but it is a totally different work from the "Teaching of the twelve Apostles" published by Abp. Bryennios.

Should Providence permit I may recur to this subject at a future time.

Mrs. R. and I can most truly sympathize with you & Mrs. C. in your anxiety for your son, having ourselves been called to part with a daughter, Emma Louisa, who died of consumption in her 17th year. The Lord graciously grant healing if it is best for your son & for all concerned; and above & in all grant his presence & his grace.

I returned in safety with Dr. & Mrs. Wood & on the 4th inst. from Monastir, where we attended the annual meeting of the Eur. T. Mission. It was a fatiguing journey, and we encountered rain, & some of us took cold, but I trust suffered no permanent injury. The documents forwarded to you will give you an idea of the progress of the work during the year. I think you will note with special interest the reports of the schools, Miss Stone's report of work among & for women, and the cordial co-operation of the mission with the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, a delegate from which body attended our meeting and sat with us as a corresponding member.

Our Bulgarian Bible Dictionary has been very favorably noticed by several leading Bulgarian newspapers, and commended especially to priests and teachers.

I remain, My dear Dr. Clark,

Most truly your brother in the gospel

Elias Riggs.

P.S. The delegate to our mission meeting this year from the Bulg. Ev. Soc. was Mr. Sichanoff of Samokov, a nephew of Mr. Costovich who worked with me in the translation of the Scriptures for many years. Mr. S. is a graduate of Robert College, where he was supported by his uncle. The latter, though he retains his connection with the Bulg. ch. rejoices I think to see his nephew and protegé a preacher of a pure gospel.

[illegible] May 16. 1877

My"

280.

Constantinople, May 31. 1884.

L. S. Ward, Treas. A. B. C. F. M.

My dear Brother,

Dr. Kingsbury, sec. of the Wes. T. Mission asks us to send you a copy of our Estimate for Cons'ple for 1885. I do not know in what shape he has communicated to you (or to Dr. Clark) the action of our annual meeting on the estimates. They were examined as usual in detail and adopted. The reason why those for Constantinople were not drawn out in detail was that we made no change from the Estimate for the present year except such diminution of the fund for printing and binding as was necessary to bring the sum total to the amount of the Appropriation for this station for 1884. This I believe was 951 Liras, beside our salaries which amount to 737½ Liras. Our Estimate for 1885 was therefore the amount of the appropriation for 1884. This was adopted by the mission, and should have appeared in the Secretary's report of the Annual Meeting.

We are in the midst of important conferences and discussions here, but it is too soon to speak of results.

As ever, Truly yours

Elias Riggs

Langdon S. Ward, Esq.
Treasurer A.B.C.F.M.
Boston

D. Clark

June 16.'84

Mar 28

Constantinople, Mar. 10. 1885.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I n the inclosed note I acknowledge two letters from Dr. Alden received during your absence from Boston. I trust you have returned invigorated, and have not resumed work too soon.

As Mr. Draper has been paid the full amt. of his charge for electrotyping my little book on the Revised Version of the N. Testament, and also $50.– as indemnification on the Eng. Em. of the Auth. Ver. of the O. T. I take it for granted that he regards the plates of both works as my property. If you see no objection, please forward to him the inclosed note, and obtain his reply. The package of 20 copies of the two volumes in one which you sent I received safely.

I had a few days ago the opportunity of making a somewhat interesting visit to the Library of the Mosque of St. Sophia. A gentleman in Germany ~~in Missouri~~ wrote me stating that a book had recently been published in America, (he did not mention its title) in which some very remarkable statements were made as to the contents of said Library, and he desired if possible to verify them.

Among the works alleged to exist in that library were, A Greek Ms. of the Bible, being one of those prepared by Eusebius by order of the Emperor Constantine, The entire Jerusalem Talmud, The Official records of the Jewish Sanhedrin in the time of Christ, &c.

The same gentleman subsequently wrote to Gen. Wallace, who for several reasons was interested in the inquiry, and obtained permission to visit the library and to inspect it freely. He invited Dr. Washburn, Dr. Long and myself to accompany him. Dr. W. ~~had an engagement which prevented his coming~~, but Dr. Long and I accompanied the Minister and the visit was made on the 21st ult. Three interpreters also assisted in the inspection of this interesting library, viz. the first interpreter of the embassy, an interpreter from the Palace, and a member of the Censorship Board, sent by the Min. of Pub. Instruction.

The Library occupies an apartment under one of the smaller domes which surround the great dome of the Mosque, measuring, I sh^d. say, about 16 by 20 feet. It is entered by a gilded door from the S. aisle of the Mosque, through a smaller apartment used as a reading room by students in the college connected with the Mosque & by other moslems, but not open to christians or other non-moslems. The books are kept in closets in the East & West walls of the room, and in a set of cases opening outward, arranged in the middle of the room so as to form an inner apartment, with shelves also within it.

Zia Bey, the Librarian, received us courteously and gave us the opportunity of freely inspecting the library. We found it to consist of some 6000 volumes, nearly all being Arabic or Persian manuscripts. We found nothing looking like the uncial Greek manuscript referred to, or the Talmud, or any Jewish records or manuscripts of any kind or age. We looked over the catalogue of the library, and found no intimation of any such works. The Librarian assured us that no such works exist in the library, nor any thing whatever remaining from the time of the Turkish conquest.

His manner appeared entirely frank. We saw nothing indicative of a desire to conceal any thing. On the contrary he showed a readiness to hunt up and exhibit to us any thing in which we felt an interest. He showed us three books containing portions of the Scriptures in Arabic and Latin, one of them being a N. Testament printed in 1616, and declared that these were the only non-musselman books in the library.

He showed us several very curious Arabic ms. volumes, one a large quarto on Natural History, illustrated by good drawings; another on Natural Philosophy and Mechanics, also with drawings; a very ancient commentary on the Koran, &c.

He stated in answer to our inquiries that he had been Librarian of this library for about twenty five years, and that in that time the only foreigners who had had access to this library, previous to the time of our visit, were the French Empress Eugenie, the Emperor of Austria and the

Shah of Persia, and that with the exception of said Emperor and Empress no person not a moslem has had access to this library in his time.

He mentioned that about 25 years ago the U.S. Secretary of Legation obtained permission to have a translation made of a work entitled, A Description of the climate and productions of Musselman countries; and that more recently a Russian Attaché, by permission of the Minister of Public Instruction, had a copy taken of a small work in Turkish on Bokhara; the work of translating or copying having in both instances been done away from the library.

It seems that the writer of the book referred to by my Missouri correspondent gave in his volume what purported to be extracts from Hebrew documents of the time of Christ, copied by himself from originals in the library of the Mosque of St. Sophia.

At Gen. Wallace's request I wrote out for him a statement of the above incidents; but I do not think there can be any objection to your making any use you think proper of the same statements.

Dr. Byington has been quite unwell for more than a month past, but is better now, and we trust will soon be quite well. We were very glad that it was possible for Mr. Thomson to come to his aid for two or three weeks.

We were very glad to hear of the improvement in the health of your son, and trust that it may be permanent, if the Lord will.

I remain, your affectionate brother,

Elias Riggs.

P. S. I have been once to call on Abp. Briennius, who has a house in the city, and much of the time resides here, but found that he was absent in his diocese of Nicomedia.

Rev. Dr. Somerville the Scotch evangelist is just closing a series of meetings here. He has addressed audiences of three, four, or five hundred, his addresses being interpreted in Greek, Armenian, Turkish, &c. with marked and undiminished interest, and we trust good will result through a Divine blessing. Perhaps Dr. Wood or Dr. Bliss may have written you already about these meetings. If not, I think some of us will.

E. R.

Shah of Persia, and that with the exception of [illegible] inspection [illegible]
has not access to the library in his [illegible]
[illegible]
U.S. Secretary of Legation [illegible]
[illegible]
the exception of these [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
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the health of your son, and trust that it may be
permanent, if the Lord will.

I am ever, your affectionate brother,

Elias Riggs.

Constantinople Mar. 10.
Rec'd Mar. 30, '85.

Copy.

Constantinople, May 15, 1885.

Mr. W. F. Draper,
Andover.

Dear Sir:-

Your account of Jan. 1. 1884 charged me for "Composition and Stereo. plates of Modifications of R. V. N. T. $113.88, Copyright entry .50, Manufacture & exp. 62.58, Com$^{n.}$ & Int. 7.71 — Total 184.67. Cr. cash for 38 sold 17.10"

The balance 167.57 having been paid in full, it seems to me that the plates and all the copies remaining on hand, viz. 201 in sheets and 64 bound were my property. If there is any mistake in this inference please point it out.

In your letter to me of April 2, 1885 you say, "For the plates of the Suggested Modifications I allowed $10 [for the plates] in addition to $90.50 loss, so that both sets of plates clearly belong to me." This I must say I do not understand.

The publication of the previous work, "Suggested Emendations" was undertaken by you without any pecuniary responsibility on my part. The loss to which you refer must of course relate to that work, as your entire charge for the other work has been paid. But what is meant by allowing $10 for the plates of the new work in addition to $90.50 loss (on the old,) I am unable to understand.

I send this through Dr. Clark, as he has kindly been the medium of my communications with you. Whatever you would say in reply to this, please say to him.

I remain

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Elias Riggs.

Copy of Mr. W. F. Draper's account with Elias Riggs. Jan. 1. 1884.

Rev. Dr. Elias Riggs, in account with W. F. Draper,

Dr. for Composition and Stereo. plates of Modifications of R. V. N. T.	113.88
Copyright entry	50
Manufacture & exp.	62.58
Com.n & Interest	7.71
	184.67
Cr. Cash for 38 sold	17.10
Bal. due	$ 167.57

Stock

Printed	380 copies
Bound	179 "
On hand in Sheets	201 "

Bound		179
Sold	38	
Donated	41	
Sent to order	36	115
On hand		64

Constantinople, May 16. 1885.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I wrote you April 17th respecting Dr. Byington's case. The urgency of his getting away was apparent to all, & in the circumstances I am sure you will approve it. He left with his family by a Liverpool steamer two weeks ago to-day.

I wished to write you also respecting some other things, especially respecting Mrs. Riggs's illness, but the occurrence of the An. meeting of the W. T. M. and various occupations have prevented until now.

Mrs. R. continues very feeble, and since I wrote has suffered more than for some weeks before, but is now we trust improving gradually. You will unite with us in the prayer that she may be restored to comfortable health, if consistent with our Heavenly Father's wise & loving purpose for us.

Mean time I have received yours of April 23d inclosing a note from Mr. Draper. I am unable to comprehend his reasoning, and therefore inclose my reply. There is no connection between the two publications. The first was undertaken on his own account, I merely furnishing the manuscript without compensation. The second was published on my account, and I promptly met the expense of composing, plates, printing, binding & incidentals, including commission & interest, as appears by his bill, which I retain, but of which I inclose a copy. In his subsequent transaction with you Mr. Draper had no claim except for the value of the unbound copies of the first publication. This according to his own statements would be insignificant, and so when he received the additional $50.

it seemed to me that he should have regarded this as an unexpected relief from a loss for which we were in no sense or degree responsible, and thus that in equity the plates of the first publication should be my property.

If you feel doubt in regard to either branch of the matter, please ask the judgment of Mr. Ward, or of some other business friend.

I am exceedingly sorry that you should have a moment's trouble with such a matter, but as it has been thus far in your hands, I see no way out but through your kindly understanding the matter and then coming to an understanding with Mr. Draper. By what sort of reasoning he comes to the conclusion that "clearly" both sets of plates belong to him I am entirely unable to comprehend.

I will not attempt to allude to the meeting of the Mission. You will of course have the details in full from others.

I trust Mr. Ward has before this quite recovered from the effects of his accident.

We have greatly enjoyed having our children and grandchildren with us for a season. And we regard it as a very great providential mercy that our daughter Mrs. Trowbridge can spend the summer with us.

I remain, my dear Dr. Clark,

Gratefully & truly yours,

Elias Riggs

Constantinople, July 20. 1885.

My Dear Dr. Clark,

I have been brought home in safety from attendance on the annual meeting of the Eu. T. Mission, and found all in their usual state of health.

The official report of the meeting you will of course get in due time, probably as soon as you get this. A conference lasting four days was held with the evangelical labourers from all parts of the mission. The results were regarded by the members of the mission as satisfactory. But I do not think a similar conference will be invited again. The number of workers is too great and the expense too much to justify calling them all together. Such gatherings of the workers connected with single stations are appropriate and comparatively inexpensive.

There were present on this occasion seven male and eight female members of the Mission, the Rev. E. F. Lounsbury of the Methodist Bulgarian Mission, four native pastors, eleven licensed preachers, eight other male helpers, six bible women and four female teachers, beside some eight or ten other persons invited to sit with the Conference as honorary members, thus constituting a body of over fifty christian labourers.

The topics discussed were such as
A Constitution for the Bulgarian Evangelical churches,
Reception of free pupils in the mission schools,
What can be done for Macedonia in its present condition?
How can christian workers draw nearer together?
Need of an itinerant evangelist,
How can the people be led to give liberally for the support of the gospel?
Should unconverted pupils be rec^d into the mission schools?
Should all helpers be examined and licensed?
Primary schools - their organization & course of study,
Sunday schools - preparation of lesson papers for them,
Subsequent conferences similar to the present, &c.

The resolutions adopted were such as the Mission could honestly endorse.

The business of the Mission (distinctively) occupied the four days succeeding those devoted to the Conference, closing July 14th.

You will notice that in my report of the Constantinople station I remark that Mrs. Riggs and I may find it necessary to go this autumn to Aintab for the sake of being in the family of our daughter Mrs. Trowbridge. The morning after I reached home Mr. Trowbridge and our son Charles arrived here from Aintab to spend part of their vacation with us. So far as we have had time to consider the question, it is the impression of us all that we should go with them so as to reach Aintab early in September. Indeed considering Mrs. R's feeble health we can hardly think of any other practicable course.

When our plan is more definitely arranged I will write again. My last to you was dated, I think, May 15th, and inclosed a letter to Mr. Draper.

May the dealings of our Heavenly Father with you and with us further our usefulness in what remains of the present life and our preparation for the immortal life beyond.

Your affectionate brother
Elias Riggs.

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A Constitution for the Bulgarian Evangelical church,

Reception of the pupils in the mission schools,

What can be done for Macedonia in its present condition?

How can Christian workers draw nearer together?

[illegible]

[illegible] proper [illegible] fully for the [illegible]

Should unconverted pupils be [illegible]

Should [illegible] be [illegible] received?

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Rec'd Aug. 4.

Constantinople, July 27. 1885.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Since writing you on the 20th inst. I have had free consultation with my associates here of both missions in regard to our plans and they all concur in the view that Providence is beckoning us to Aintab for the present. The future we leave to our Heavenly Father, who sees the end from the beginning. Mr. Trowbridge proposes to start by a steamer which leaves here Aug. 29. This is the latest steamer by which he can go so as to reach Aintab before the commencement of the fall term in the college. Unless providential indications to the contrary should appear, Mrs. R. and I propose to go at the same time, and spend at least the coming winter with them.

I shall hope to devote the principal part of my time while there to a work which our mission have repeatedly urged me to undertake, viz. the preparation of a commentary especially upon difficult passages of the Scriptures.

It would be pleasant to us to get a word from you in regard to our movements, before we leave Constantinople.

I remain as ever

Your aff. brother in the gospel work

Elias Riggs.

Harbor of Mersin, Sept. 4. 1885.

My dear Dr. Clark,

We have been brought thus far on our way in peace. Early tomorrow morning we hope to reach Alexandretta, where we leave the steamer & commence our land journey.

We know that your sympathies and prayers are with us. Ours are with you in view of your approaching annual meeting. Mrs. R. and I were both born in the same year in which the A.B.C.F.M. was organized. Our lives have run parallel to that of the Board. My father took the Panoplist and M. Herald from the commencement, and its contents were among the most interesting reading of my earliest childhood. Three quarters of a century have passed away. We cannot renew our youth in *this* world, but the Board can & by the blessing of God will. I trust the annual meeting of this year may be a signal occasion of its doing so.

Before leaving Constantinople I received your kind lines of Aug. 11. I wished to write you a word at once in view of the coming meeting, but was pressed out of measure for time.

I inclose a check for $100. which I wish to go into the treasury of the Board on occasion of the completion of its seventy fifth year.

Your affectionate brother in Christ
Elias Riggs

Aintab, Sept. 14. 1885.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I take the earliest opportunity to report our safe arrival here. I wrote you briefly from Mersin, because I feared that any thing from here could not reach you before the time of the annual meeting. In view of Mrs. R's feeble state we could not but feel considerable anxiety respecting the land journey. But we have been brought through it safely, and have abundant cause for rejoicing and thanksgiving to the Father of all mercies.

We reached Scanderoon on Sat. the 5th instant and spent the sabbath at Beylan. Prof. Hohannes Krikorian, who was providentially there preached in the morning to an attentive congregation of some 70 hearers, and in the afternoon we had a communion service. Starting on Monday and dividing the journey into short stages, going no day more than 7 hours, and making the average about six, we reached Aintab on Saturday. You know something of the discomforts and difficulties of journeying in the interior of Turkey, and will rejoice & give thanks with us that we were brought without mishap or delay to the end of such a journey.

I think that Mrs. R. is quite as well as she was when we left Constantinople, & that she will be even better & stronger than she then was, after resting for a few days from the fatigue of the journey.

In view of the importance of securing a matron for the college, and of what we learn of the fitness of Mrs. Bingham for that post, Mrs. R. and I are disposed to offer to pay $100 each per annum for at least two years, thus providing more than half her salary for the two years, provided your judgement continues the same that it has been as to her fitness for this position, & that her appointment can be secured. Mr. Trowbridge I think will write you by this mail on the subject. As soon as this offer is accepted, Mr. Ward may charge me $200. and I will offset it at once by a check for the amount on my brother in law Mr. A. R. Forsyth of Greensburgh, Indiana.

Rec'd Oct. 12.

Praying that you may have a good meeting at Boston, and that a new impulse may be given to the work for Christ in all the world, I remain

Your brother in Christ

Elias Riggs

Aintab, Jan. 12. 1886.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I received by our last mail your favor of Dec. 4th informing me that the appropriation for my salary was fixed at T.L. 225. On arriving here I learned that Mr. Sanders' salary was T.L. 200 and Mr. Trowbridge's 225. In closing the year's account with Mr. Peet I put my salary for the last four months of 1885 at the former rate, and I prefer to reckon it at the same rate for '86, though I thank the Committee for their generous proposal to put it at the higher rate.

By the same mail I recd. your letter respecting affairs of the college, and, as you desired, passed it over to Mr. Sanders, who is Secretary of the Board of Managers.

The week of special united prayer was observed by the churches here, the morning meetings being held one hour before sunrise and the evening meetings an hour before sunset, daily. I was unable to be present at any of the meetings; having suffered for three or four weeks from an attack of what Dr. Shepard calls a form of neuralgia, affecting one side of my head. Mr. Trowbridge and Charles attended, and reported full churches & earnest interest. It is refreshing to see the hearty coöperation of pastors, teachers in the college, & missionaries in every good word and work.

I am better now & have resumed giving lessons in Greek to the sen. class. Mrs. R. is tolerab comfortable, but continues feeble. Mr. Trowbridge's health is much improved, & he has resumed some of his duties in the college.

As ever,

Your aff. brother

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd Feb. 10.

Aintab, April 6. 1886.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Our son Charles is writing and will mention his engagement with Miss Lella Parsons. All their friends are warm in their congratulations to them both. Very likely some of them may already have mentioned it to you. I think we may hopefully invoke for them our Heavenly Father's blessing, trusting that the usefulness of both will be increased, as well as their happiness.

I wrote you Jan. 12, and must have mentioned the meetings of the week of united prayer. The last week of Feb. we had similar meetings and the interest was equally marked.

I send to your care a package for Mrs. K. C. Williams, because I do not know her present address.

I have been called off from writing and now must close, as it is the hour for closing our mail.

Ever your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs

Rec'd May 3.

Aintab, Aug. 14. 1886.

My dear Dr. Clark,

My last to you was dated May 10. Since that I have recd. yours of May 27. Thanks for your kind words & thoughts for our comfort. I trust we are grateful to our Heavenly Father and to his children in this world for the comfort provided for us in our present circumstances. But I shrink from any plan which makes comfort the prime object of life. And I have thought that it might be duty to say somewhat more than I have recently said in writing you, respecting what I feel that I can do & am trying to do in the way of work designed to promote the kingdom of Christ.

Of course a change of residence involves some change of work; perhaps also in most cases some sacrifice. Of course I am glad to aid in any work which seems needed here. And yet my thoughts turn toward services which it may be possible to render in the old lines.

During the last year I have given instruction in Greek to nearly all the members of the senior class in the college, and during the last term also to a small class in Latin. Both Greek & Latin are optional studies in the institution, the former being chosen especially by those who look forward to the ministry or to some department of Christian work, and the latter by those who purpose to study medicine. The members of the late senior class were all but one members of evangelical churches, and most of them hope to become either teachers or preachers. There was no one of the regular teachers of the College who had the time for these lessons the past year. These however occupied but a small portion of my time.

One matter to which I have given a considerable portion of time the past year was the revision of a Greek Bible Dictionary prepared by Dr. Constantine, and in the publication of which the Pub. Com. of the W. T. M. voted so far to share as to take 1000 copies for circulation within their field. This revision is now finished.

Another work, ~~to~~ which two missions and two native "Unions" have expressed the desire that I should undertake was the preparation of a commentary, particularly upon passages of Scripture which present some special difficulty. On this I have made a beginning, & to it I design to give a portion of every day, so far as I can command the time. In these days with the thermometer every day above 90° one does not feel like accomplishing much hard work.

Another matter to which I give a portion of time occasionally is translating hymns into Bulgarian, a work of the importance and usefulness of which we have had many proofs.

I mention these items, not for publication, but simply to discharge the duty of reporting work.

Mrs. R. continues very feeble, but in general not suffering severely. She generally rests pretty well during the night, and in the day time is able to be up and occupied most of the time, but scarcely ever gets out of the house.

We have not heard lately of the health of your son, or of Mrs. Clark. We should be glad occasionally to hear of the Lord's dealings with you. Of your own health we do hear sometimes, especially when some change becomes necessary.

May grace, mercy & peace be with you and us and with all our co-labourers in all the world.

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs

P. S. From our children you hear of course in reference to their respective departments. It is, you may well suppose, a joy to us to see them all engaged heartily and usefully in Christian work. Of Edward's work and plans just now you doubtless know more definitely than we do. Dear Margaret, to whose cares we are sorry to be obliged to add, instead of relieving them as we should be glad to do, in addition to her duties at home, has inaugurated a series of weekly neighborhood meetings for women, attended already by from 20 to 60 women each, a majority of them not being from the Protestant community. A few days ago she had some twenty of the leaders of these meetings together here for conference, prayer & social intercourse. Her aim is to attend one or more of these meetings herself every week, not however taking the conducting of them out of the hands of the leaders, who engage in this work as a labor of love. This is apart from general meetings for mothers, which are held monthly.

Charles has gone to Constantinople on his interesting errand, but you will probably hear from him there about as soon as we shall. We have not yet heard of his arrival there, although he has been gone nearly four weeks.

Rec'd, Sept. 18.

292.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Sept. 27. 1886.

Dear Dr. Clark,

Yours of the 2nd inst. is at hand. Thank You for your pleasant words regarding my "recess" in Vienna. It really did me a good deal of good. I am much less nervous, and am accomplishing more — if I can judge — than ever before. My opinion is thus strongly corroborated that Missionaries need such brief "recesses" as are customary in American pastorates where large nerve-force has to be expended. Better 1 month per year than 12 months every 10 years, — if the missionary himself thinks so. Less expense, no interruption of work if he watches his chance to slip away, and a great saving of strength & courage.

Our "New Departure" in the line of furnishing industrial work for our students I believe to be of the greatest importance. We have 37 boys in the 4 classes that make up the school at present. All these boys, save one or two, ~~are~~ have heartily entered into the plan of doing manual labor at least 3 hours per diem. Twelve are in the Printing Dept, = four hands per day of 9 hours. The rest are all joiners. Dr. House, who supervises the latter dept, is fortunate in having the aid of a practical mechanic, Mr. Vitanoff, a good Christian, Robt. Coll. graduate, with special practical studies in England. Their department will soon be turning out excellent folding chairs, with Boston seats & fastenings.

My Dept I am managing as best I can, with the aid of a student in class V, who has learned quite a little about typography in our own office.

We are ridiculously hampered by lack of proper materials. The type ordered three months ago from Vienna are on the way. That will help us greatly. But we are in such pressing need of a paper-cutter that I am sorry I did not place that article on the list of *indispensables* which I asked you to secure for me if possible.

The same firm that mnf'd our Press —— Golding & Co., 183 Fort-Hill square, Boston — have a variety of paper-cutters. Would that one might be shipped to me "one hour sooner," as the Bulgarian idiom expressively runs. As I have not their Catalogue, I cannot select a cutter, but "beggars must not be choosers." A machine that will cut up large sheets into small, & that will trim tracts & pamphlets, is what we want.

We have delays, too, in the work of preparing matter for the Press, owing to the "circumlocution-office" method of doing business out here, which requires that mission publications shall be approved by two Stations. As our Publication Committee are scattered from Dan in Sophia to Beersheba in Constantinople, and the nearest Station is two days off, you can imagine my feelings when 12 printers are clamoring for copy. I am glad I took that "recess!"

One must either lapse into Oriental indifference as regards the flight of time, or struggle to upheave the entire world. I am gravitating towards the former position, although my nature prompts me to unloose all the red tape within my reach.

"Our work does not seem to suffer on account of political changes. We do not care to prognosticate the future, in case the Russians come. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. So far we are allowed to go on, and do all we have strength for. We endeavor to cultivate a simple faith in God's Providence, & to believe that He will never abdicate His throne on account of Russia, or any & all earthly powers combined. We do not fear the great Northern Empire. If she comes to stay, she will find a lively evangelical work going on in her new dominions. The Mission to Russia will be a fait accompli. What she will do in the circumstances we do not pretend to foreknow. God knows. Meanwhile we press on"

My extraordinary duties as Manager of Printing Dept. and School Librarian have left very little time for pastoral duties, but I shall not allow the latter to be crowded out. There is a healthy spirit of work among our Christian students. The prayer-meetings are well sustained, & some little outp-missionary work is being done. I trust much more will be done during the winter.

Bro. Tsaneff in Sophia is annoyed by the opposition of one Stefanoff, a Bulgarian who has been educated (?) in various Baptist institutions in America, and who now comes, commissioned by the "Sons of Zion" to convert this entire field to their exceedingly peculiar tenets. This gentleman bears the modest title of apostle as well as missionary. He openly preaches against the divinity of Christ. He is close-communion, believes the 2nd advent is imminent, and is evidently doing his best to proselyte. Our opinion is that he will do no real harm. He is so shallow that he cannot obtain much influence.

Mr. Clarke is about starting with his wife to attend Annual Meeting of the Methodist Brethren in Loftcha. A Bishop will be present. We are very glad he can take the much needed trip.

With great respect,
Very truly yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, Sept 27.

Rec'd Oct 18.

Aintab, Feb. 1. 1887.

My dear Dr. Clark, 4

I recd. in due season your favor of Sept. 27. We felt, as you could not but feel, some anxiety as to the turn the future probation discussion might take at the meeting of the Board, but were relieved when we got the reports of the meeting. I did not wonder that your health suffered under the strain, but trust that before this you are restored to your usual health.

The churches here held special services on the morning of new year's day, beginning at dawn. Both the first and second churches were crowded, the former capable of holding 1500 and the latter 1000. – Both these churches were opened for daily prayer-meetings also during the week of prayer, the first at dawn, closing at sunrise, so as not to interfere with the day's ordinary work, and the second an hour before sunset, closing at sunset. In this way hundreds could attend who would not have been able to attend a meeting in the middle of the day, and many more than could get out for a night-meeting.

Mr. Trowbridge we suppose is before this in England, and probably has written you from there of his state of health, & of his plans.

The College goes steadily & prosperously forward, the other teachers sharing Mr. Trowbridge's duties. Charles is diligent and successful in his work. We are indeed, as you say, happy in his having secured so congenial a partner of his joys & labors. A young men's Christian association has been organized in the college. One has existed in the town for several years. C. cooperates with both. He is giving in town a course of lectures on the Reformation in the 16th century.

I am not now giving any lessons in the college except an exegetical Scripture lesson to three preachers, who, with the approbation of the Mission, have intermitted their work for this year to take some additional lessons in the college. The Latin class Mr. Haynes has taken, and no Greek class has been organized this year. Greek is an optional study for the Senior class. Last year a majority of the Senior class were looking toward the ministry, and the whole class chose Greek. Of the present Sen. class only two or three are thinking of the ministry, and no one has chosen Greek. — I am, as ever,

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd Mar. 14

Aintab, May 19. 1887.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I ought sooner to have acknowledged your kind lines of Feb. 11, in which you mention having in your possession the plates of my "Suggested ~~Emendations~~ Modifications of the Revised Version of the New Testament." Please regard them as the property of the A.B.C.F.M. I know not whether any further copies will ever be called for. If they should, the plates being on hand, they could be cheaply produced. I am still strongly impressed with the belief that before the Rev. Vn. can be accepted for general use it must be recommitted, and a considerable number of changes made, many of them in the line of making it consistent with itself, and with the R.V. of the O.T.

I am sorry that I cannot report any improvement in Mrs. Riggs's state. She requires constant care night and day. I generally watch with her the half of every night, and our dear Margaret and Lella take turns in watching the other half. Other friends here sympathize deeply with us, & would be glad to help, but such is Mrs. R's state that it would be very difficult for them to do what is needed for her in the night.

In consequence of this, only three nights within the last three months have they relieved us of the duty of watching with her.

May we learn the lessons & gain the blessing which our heavenly Father intends for us in this dispensation.

Your affectionate brother in Christ,

Elias Riggs.

May 19. 1887

✓

Platt:

Bartlett

Riggs

Byington

[illegible]

Aintab, Sept. 8. 1887.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I have received yours of Aug. 6. I sent two weeks ago to my son James of Bergen Point, N. J. an article on the necessity of a retouching of the R. V. of the Eng. Bible, requesting him when it is printed to send some copies to you.

Mrs. R. continues in the same helpless state as for months past, her mind much of the time wandering. I pray that He who makes every thing to work for good to his children, whom he chastens, would enable me to learn well the lesson He would teach me. Of course no public mention should be made of such a case, but I would ask our friends who know of it to pray for us.

As ever,

Most truly yours in the gospel
Elias Riggs.

P.S.

It was a great satisfaction to both Mrs. R. and myself to have a brief visit from our son Edward, who had come as far as Gurun in the prosecution of his missionary work, and made the additional journey for the sake of once more seeing his feeble, failing mother. The visit was also valuable on other grounds, as he had never been at Aintab.

E. R.

Rec'd Oct. 4.

P. C. Inf.

Aintab, Nov. 17. 1887.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I will not attempt to do more by today's mail than to inform you that Mrs. Riggs, after having walked with me through fifty five years of my earthly pilgrimage, has been called from my side, and entered as I trust, her everlasting rest. She breathed her last on the morning of the 15th inst. after a night, most of which was passed in a lethargic sleep, without waking to consciousness, and without any struggle, just ceasing to breathe. Of course there was no room for parting words or messages. We had had no intimation that the end was near. She sat with us at the tea-table on the evening of Monday the 14th as usual.

Last evening about sunset we laid her mortal remains in the little cemetery in the S. W. corner of the college inclosure, Mr Fuller conducting funeral services in English at the house, and the three pastors of the Aintab churches at the grave in Turkish.

By next week's mail I hope to send you a brief sketch of her life, which I trust will not be unacceptable to the readers of the Missionary Herald.

Your affectionate brother in Christ,

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd Dec. 19.

Aintab, Dec. 22. 1887.

My dear Dr. Clark,

The question of my return to Constantinople naturally presents itself for consideration and decision. My providential detention in Aintab has been so long, that I do not feel quite like deciding it without consultation. Will you therefore kindly ask the Pru. Com. to consider it, and give me their advice, or instructions. The main considerations which bear upon it are briefly these.

1. My connexion with the Eur. T. Mission has not been severed, and I have continued during the more than two years spent here to work more or less directly for that field.

2. The work that I may be able to do on the same lines hereafter can be done better at Con'ple than here, on account of the accessibility of books of reference, and of native helpers. I do not know of any one residing in this city who speaks the Bulgarian language.

3. On the other hand, I am now in the 78th year of my age, and cannot reasonably anticipate a very long period of service in this world. Still, my sight and hearing are unimpaired, and my general health is fairly good.

4. The question whether a person at my age ought to retire from the responsibilities of active participation in the work of the mission, leaving them in younger hands, (like similar questions in the case of pastors or teachers in the U.S.) is one which you can decide more safely than I can. You may perhaps remember that I wrote you on this point some five or six years ago.

Other considerations may occur to you, or to members of the Committee. The matter of personal comfort, I think, should not be allowed very much weight. Wherever duty calls, there, I trust, I can be comfortable. "In some way or other the Lord will provide."

I will send this *via* Constantinople, asking the brethren to add any suggestions, if they think proper.

With fraternal regards to the members of the Prudential Committee, to your associates at the M. Rooms and to Mrs. Clark, with best wishes for the new year,

I remain, affectionately & truly,

Your brother in the gospel of Christ,

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd Jan. 30. '88.

Aintab, Feb. 23. 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I want to thank you for your kind notes of Dec. 8 and 28. Very soon I shall hope to get a word in reply to mine of Dec. 22d on the question of my return to Constantinople. But judging by the tenor of what the brethren write me (and have doubtless written you) from Con'ple, I have little reason to doubt what your answer will be. I may add that the dear friends here fully recognize the force of the reasons in favor of my returning to C., only expressing the fear that I might be drawn into the vortex of pressing work there, beyond the limits of my physical strength.

My present thought is, (unless I hear something from you pointing in a different direction), to join the party going from here to the annual meeting of the C. T. Mission at Adana, where they hope to have Dr. Smith meet them, some time in April, and then go on via Mersin, so as to be at the meeting of the W. T. M. commencing May 8th. at Con'ple. Indeed I think it would be well for me to make this journey and attend these mission meetings, (and that of the Eur. T. M. also, if possible), even though it should be thought best for me to return to Aintab.

The instruction of a small class in Greek, which is the only aid I am at present rendering in the C. T. C., can easily be provided for. It can be taken either by Prof. Krikorian or by my son Charles. And so, hard as it will be to part from my children here, I think it decidedly best for me to return to C.

How rapidly the strokes of the reaper Death are falling! We have scarcely recovered from the shock of the sudden departure of Mr. Sanders and Mr. Thom, (only one day apart), when we hear that Mrs. Crawford of Broosa has been suddenly called away. Yet are we sure that He who numbers the hairs of our heads makes no mistakes. Oh that we may learn the lesson which He would teach us!

Any thing for me may hereafter (for the present at least,) be addressed to Constantinople.

With my best respects to Mrs. C. I remain

Your affectionate brother,

Elias Riggs.

Ansd. Feb. 23, 1888.

299.

Aintab, Mar. 21. 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I have waited somewhat before acknowledging your cordial & fraternal letter of Jan. 30, hoping to be able to state definitely our plan for leaving here.

I do heartily thank you for the tone of that letter (and of all your letters to me) and I thank the Committee for their thoughtful interest in my comfort. I love the members of the Pru. Com. for their work's sake, and pray that their steady, persevering work for Christ may from year to year be increasingly fruitful.

It is now the plan of the friends here and at Marash to start for Adana April 12th to hold there the an. m. of the C. T. M., at which we hope to meet Dr. Smith. Whether he will find time after that meeting for a brief visit at Aintab & Marash before going on to Constantinople we cannot now be certain. Such a visit, though only for a couple of days in each of these places, would undoubtedly be of value to him in reference to future correspondence with the Mission.

Mr. Parsons and I hope to reach Constantinople May 4th or 5th. If Mrs. P.'s language were Turkish, I think she would be persuaded to remain here, and would be very useful. She has taken a deep interest in the women's meetings, which are going on with increasing interest and usefulness, but, her language being Armenian, she c̄ take part in them only with the help of an interpreter.

Will you please forward the inclosed to Mrs. Schneider. She gave her address, but on account of the paleness of the ink it cannot be read with confidence. Perhaps Dr. Alden might hand it to her. She remarks that they worship at the same church.

I have been quite unwell with a cold, but trust it is passing away.

Your aff. brother

Elias Riggs.

March 27, 1880.

Rec'd Apr. 23.

Constantinople, May 29, 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

My last to you I think was written Mar. 21. I have recd. your kind note of Mar. 27.

In company with several friends, some of whom were on their way to the U.S. I left Aintab April 19. Mrs. Parsons came with me, on her return to her station at Bardizag. The journey was a somewhat trying one on account of continued rains, mud and swollen streams, but we were brought through in safety, & reached Constantinople May 4th.

On the way we were permitted to see something of the advancing gospel work at Adana, Tarsus & Mersin, not only that under the care of the C. T. Mission, but also that looked after by Dr. David Metheny of the Reformed Presbyterian Mission. The former being conducted in Turkish and the latter in Arabic, these two enterprises do not at all interfere with one another. At Adana, as I have no doubt you are already informed, there has been a wonderful advance during the past year, 1200 persons having attached themselves to the Evangelical community, and the Sabbath congregations having become so large that the church, (which will accommodate more than

1000) was entirely insufficient to contain them, another place has been secured and a second congregation organized, with a native preacher.

Dr. Metheny labors chiefly for the Ansarieh, a people who preserve secret pagan rites while in a superficial way professing Mohammedanism. His principal instrumentality is the schools in Adana, Tarsus and Mersin. In Adana his school is attended by over 170 children, only four of whom are from Christian families. Of the remainder two thirds, he told us, are from the Ansarieh and one third are Moslems. How long this work will be permitted to go on undisturbed we cannot tell. But mean time the leaven of gospel truth is working.

It was to me a privilege and pleasure to meet the members of the W. T. Mission, and to attend the first week's sessions of their annual meeting. But I accounted it a duty, as well as a privilege to go with Bro. & Sist. Thomson to Philippopolis to attend the annual meeting of the Eur. T. Mission, which commenced on the morning of May 18th & closed on the evening of May 24th, thus lasting exactly one week. Of this meeting you will have full official accounts, as well as of the meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society & of the Conference of the churches, which preceded it, and so I need not recapitulate, further than to say that there is evidence of steady & rapid progress all along the line. I had felt that the addition of seven per cent to the membership of the 100 Evangelical Armenian churches during the last year was evidence of steady and healthy growth. But I was delighted to find that our eight young Evangelical Bulgarian churches had during the last year received 171 members to their communion on profession of ~~their~~ faith, their present membership being 678, thus making a gain of 33 per cent during the year.

Though I cannot report myself as quite well, yet I am thankful to say that my health is improving, notwithstanding heavy draughts on my strength both before and since leaving Aintab.

There is another matter on which I will say a few words. I have been engaged in writing notes on specially difficult passages of the N. Testament. Those of our friends in Aintab who listened to the reading of these notes, so far as prepared, urged me to have them printed in English, that they may be accessible to those who labor in other languages beside Bulgarian. I am inclined to comply with this request, if the notes should meet the approval of other judicious friends. So, after taking time to complete and revise them here (with some

* I have advanced as yet only to 2 Tim.

aids which were not accessible at Aintab) I propose to send them, or an instalment of them, to you, with the request that you would get the opinion of some suitable & competent judges, and then decide the question of having them printed in English. I think they will be much more suited to meet the wants of ordinary readers than my notes previously published.

Hoping to hear good accounts of your health, and with fraternal salutations to Mrs. Clark and to your associates at the Missionary Rooms,

I remain Your affectionate brother,

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd June 19.

P.S. Dr. Smith of course reports himself fully. I think he has enjoyed, and prized, attendance on the meetings here, although it has imposed heavy labor upon him. He left yesterday for a visit to Smyrna & vicinity, after which he will hasten, probably by Constantinople & Varna, to reach London before June 9th.

301.

Constantinople, Aug. 7. 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

In accordance with what I wrote you May 29 and seconded by the cordial approval of my brethren here, I have gone on preparing my notes on difficult passages in the New Testament for publication in America. I send them to you, not to ask you to take the time to examine them, but simply that, if you see fit, you might have the opportunity of getting the advice of any friend before putting them into the hands of a publisher.

The portion which I send reaches to the 2d. ch. of Colossians. In the preparation of the notes for use here I have reached as far as 1 Peter. I send these on now, in order that before making final arrangements for publication the publisher may have time to examine them, or to submit them for examination to some friend.

I suggest A. D. F. Randolph & Co. as publishers, unless you prefer some other arrangement. I have had some dealings with them, and have found them fair and honorable. Should you conclude to put the ms. in their hands and will let me know that you have done so, or intend to do so, I will then write them in reference to it. I shall however be content with any other arrangement which you may prefer.

I am now boarding with Dr. & Mrs. Greene and am very kindly cared for. My health is better than when I came to C. though I am not strong. — I am anxious to hear from Mr. Trowbridge, who has had another apoplectic attack, of which I got word here only by our last mail. He was at Marash attending the An. m. of the mission. But I have no doubt Mr. Fuller or others have written Dr. Smith of this.

As ever, your aff. brother

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd. Aug. 20.

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Constantinople, Sept. 12. 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I wrote you Aug. 7, sending a copy of my "Notes on difficult passages of the New Testament" as far as Col. 2: 18, for publication. I suggested your putting them into the hands of A. D. F. Randolph and Co., 38 West 23d St. N. York, but shall be satisfied with any arrangement which you think best to make. I now send the remainder of the notes with Title page and Preface. I append the academical titles to my name, because they were affixed (by others) to previous publications. If however you think the omission of these titles would not diminish the usefulness of the book, please strike them out.

I do not yet know what my daughter Mrs. Trowbridge will think best to do. I presume that by this time she will have written Dr. Smith on the subject. Three plans have been suggested, remaining in Aintab for such work as she can do there, coming here to make a home for me for a year or two, and going to the U. S. to care for all her children, and so far as practicable make a home for them all. May our Heavenly

Father graciously guide her and her children.

It will of course be a busy time with you, and I shall not be disappointed if you defer giving any thought to my notes until after the annual meeting. But perhaps you have already decided what disposal to make of them.

My health has continued to improve very slowly. The committee of our mission on a Bulg. commentary on the New Testament desire me to prepare a Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, and I propose now to give my attention chiefly to that for the present.

May the good Spirit of God be with you and with all who come together for the meeting at Cleveland.

Your aff. brother,

Elias Riggs

Rec'd Oct. 1.

Constantinople, Nov. 1. 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I rejoice to learn, from your favor of Oct. 8th and from the papers, that the an. meeting of the Board at Cleveland was so harmonious, and the outlook so favorable.

Thanks for your kind thoughts and suggestions respecting my daughter Mrs. Trowbridge's remaining here, and making a home for me. Nothing could be more in accordance with my own feelings or promotive of my comfort. The same thing has been suggested and even urged by her brothers. I did however favor her going to the U. States. Left as she was with her two younger children, a daughter 13 years old and a son 7, her three older children being in Michigan, and up till nearly the time of their father's death all together in Ann Arbor, it seemed to be her duty to go there, where she might have them all together and be able to care for, counsel and assist them all. In this view the friends at Aintab concurred, and kindly assisted her in preparations for leaving, and she came on thus far, arriving here Oct. 6 with her two younger children.

Mean time the plans of her three children in the U. S. had all been changed (partly before and partly after their father's death) in such a way that no two of them would be together. The eldest, Wm. R., now 25 years old, had accepted an invitation to teach in a "Normal College" at Huntingdon, Pa. Elizabeth M., 23 years of age, having completed one year of a Medical course at Ann Arbor, had applied for admission to a training school for nurses in connexion with the Bellevue Hospital in New York, and Edward, now 18 years of age had an offer of employment by a commercial house, I believe in Detroit, (or Cleveland.)

The knowledge of these changes of plan did not reach her until her arrival at Smyrna on her way here. It seemed therefore that Providence had sent her *here*. After conferring with me, and in view of the new arrangements of her older children, she is satisfied that it is best for her to remain with me, if this course meets your approval & that of the Pru. Committee, and she has so written to Dr. Smith. I should be glad if you would kindly confer with him on the subject, and then get the views of the Prudential Committee. It involves her transfer from one mission to another, and I suppose some provision for her support. On this point I have spoken with Bro. Pettibone, who is now acting as Treasr. here, and he advised that instead of consulting formally the missions concerned, I should simply state the circumstances, and ask the Pru. Com. to arrange the matter as they think best. This might be done (if they cordially approve of her remaining with me) either by making an appropriation directly for her support with her two children, or by restoring my salary, which is now that of a single missionary, to that of a missionary with a small family. I hardly need add that I shall be entirely satisfied with any arrangement, which they shall think best to make.

With the exception of Dr. I. G. Bliss, who has had an attack of fever, but is reported convalescent, the members of our circle here are in their usual health. In your last you do not mention the health of your son. I trust your anxiety respecting him has been relieved.

Please give my cordial salutations to Drs. Alden and Smith and to Mrs. Clark.

Your aff. brother in the gospel

Elias Riggs.

Constantinople —

Nov. 1. 1888

304.

Constantinople, Nov. 5. 1888.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I wrote you on the 1st inst. in reference to my daughter Mrs. Trowbridge's remaining here, and she wrote by the same mail to Dr. Smith. On the next day I rec'd. your favor of the 17th Oct. inclosing the reply of Messrs. Randolph & Co. in reference to publishing my notes, which I return inclosed. Thanks for what you have done thus far in the matter.

I quite agree with you, and so does Mrs. Trowbridge, as to the inexpediency of publishing Mr. T's manuscript under the circumstances, and, as I am writing Mr. Randolph on another matter, will ask him to pass the ms. over to my son James. My daughter would like to keep it. If however you or Dr. Smith would like for any reason to look it over, please write a line to James (Rev. James F. Riggs, Bergen Point, N. Jersey), and he will send it to you. I was surprised to find from Mr. Randolph's letter to Mr. T. that the ms. would make a volume of 400 8vo pages. Mr. Randolph's letter was written six days after Mr. Trowbridge's death.

Should you find that the Secretaries (or Editorial Com.) of the Cong. Pub. Soc. think, as Mr. Randolph seems to do, that there is likely to be but little demand for my notes, please drop the matter at once. I sent them, and my associates here and at Aintab advised my sending them, under the impression that they might be helpful to a large class of readers & students of the Scriptures. It may be however that the market is already crowded with commentaries &c. which would make it undesirable to add these Notes to the competing throng.

I shall be glad to hear, as soon as is convenient, what you and the Pru. Com. think expedient in regard to the subject of my letter of the 1st inst. You know me well enough to be assured that I shall be perfectly satisfied with any arrangement which accords with the judgment of the Pru. Committee.

I am as ever

Your aff. brother in the gospel

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd Nov. 21.

305.

Constantinople, Mar. 6. 1889.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I recd. your kind lines of Jan. 17, inclosing copy of the Minute respecting Mr. Trowbridge. I am glad that Bro. Fuller is to be president of the C. T. College, and have so written him. I will send you herewith 25 copies of a Circular which at Mr. Fuller's request I had printed here. I have written him to ask about sending copies to America or England, but have not yet recd. an answer. Still, I cannot go amiss in sending some copies to you.

You will have heard long before this of the death of Dr. I. G. Bliss at Assioot in Egypt, Feb. 16. Our whole missionary body in Turkey is bereaved by this stroke. He was a very earnest and devoted fellow labourer.

At our communion last sabbath we had the pleasure of receiving to church fellowship Mrs. Trowbridge's daughter Isabel, 13 years of age, and now attending the Home School.

The an. meeting of the Eur. T. Mission is appointed to commence at Samokov, April 16th. I hope to be able to attend it.

Is there any word from the Pub. Soc. about publishing my Notes? — As ever,

your aff. brother

Elias Riggs

March 6. 1884

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Constantinople, April 8th 1889.

My dear Dr. Clark,

I have recd. your favor of Mar. 22d. I purpose to start for Samokov on Friday, spending the Sabbath at Philippopolis, and reaching Samokov D.V. a week from today. Dr. Green intends to go with me as Del. from the W. T. M.

I have had a talk with Bro. Thomson in regard to the suggestion about transferring our publication work to Bulgaria. The idea had been suggested before, and that from various quarters. Four or five years ago, when some difficulties arose in connexion with the censorship, I had an interview with the Turkish Minister of Public Instruction, who said to me, (in a kindly and perfectly polite way), Why do you not transfer your publication work to Philippopolis, where there is no censorship?

I will not attempt to discuss the matter now; and yet I think it well to mention at once some of the difficulties which would attend any such transfer.

1. It would involve the procuring a larger press than now exists at Samokov, and of a much larger amount and variety of type than they have there.

2. I know of no way in which this could be done, except by an appropriation from funds of the Board. This would be a return to a policy which we abandoned more than forty years ago.

3. It would probably involve the shutting out of our publications from Macedonia and from all of Rumelia which remains outside the Principality of Bulgaria.

There are other considerations bearing upon the question, but these may suffice for the present.

I am glad that my Notes are to be printed. I should like copies to offer to some friends in America and to fellow missionaries. Further than this, any income from the publication should go into the treasury of the Board. The notes were prepared in the course of my duty as a missionary.

I remain as ever

Your affectionate brother

Elias Riggs.

Ap. 8. 188

Constantinople, May 1. 1889.

My dear Dr. Clark,

You will have in a few days the records of the An. m. of the Eu. T. Mission held at Samokov, April 16-23. I count it a privilege to have been present at it, and so I am sure does Bro. Greene, who went as Del. of the W. T. M.

It was a full meeting, only Bro. Thomson being absent. The questions respecting the schools were thoroughly discussed. On what related to the Female Boarding School entire unanimity was reached. On the question of enlargement in the Col. & Theol. Inst. there were eight votes for and one against it. That one was given on the ground that too much time and labor is devoted to education and too little to directly evangelistic work, not on the ground of any objection to the enlargement in itself, the call for which is loud, and is appreciated by all. I think that all other needed explanations will be given in the general letter, written by Bro. Haskell.

The call for an additional Missionary (beside Mr. Sleeper) I regard as very important. Bro. Clarke is feeble and should not be depended on for steady work in teaching or in tours, though he is doing considerable in both departments. It is not contemplated that the new man should go to Seres. He would doubtless reside, for a time at least, at Samokov. But he would be able to render some assistance there at once, and this would enable Bro. House to spend some months at Seres. Probably it will not be best for any missionary to spend the summer months there. This is the very decided opinion of Mr. Sampson, who cordially enters into the plan of having a missionary of the So. Pres. Ch. reside there to work in the Greek language, and one from our mission for work in Bulgarian. Greek is more used in the city, but Bulgn. prevails in the villages of the province. The two missionaries would be associates socially & for counsel, and this arrangement would obviate the necessity of asking either society to furnish a second man for this station.

No one doubted the importance of renewing the call for an associate for Miss Maltbie in addition to any aid which Miss Clarke or Miss Haskell could render. The Fem. B. School is furnishing highly valued missionary workers.

The employment of native helpers to work among Albanians to the W. of Monastir will not involve much expense. But surely missionaries should be sent to that people, either by our Board or by some other missionary Society.

I learn from different sources that there is considerable probability of the relinquishment of the Meth. Ep. Bulg. Mission. Should this anticipation prove to be well founded, it will remain for you & for us to consider earnestly what is our duty in the premises.

Dr. Greene and I were present at some of the sessions of the An. m. of the Bulg. Ev. Society at Sophia, Apr. 25 & 26. Others will report that meeting to you better than I can.

My return home in 20 hours from Sophia (Bro. G. stopped at Adrianople) was a remarkable contrast to the days when Messrs. Morse & Haskell occupied Sophia as a station. The same journey then required ten days.

I remain, my dear Dr. Clark,

Affectionately your brother in the gospel

Elias Riggs.

Rec'd May 20

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To the Secretaries of the A. B. C. F. M.

Dear Brethren,

I feel inclined, though it may be quite superfluous, to ask you to read what I have written in reply to Dr. Noble's "Letter of Inquiry" dated Jan. 15, 1889, and then forward it to him. I do not know how far the question of the Board's relation to the Cong. churches is still open for discussion, nor how practical it is, nor do I wish that you should take a moment's time to write me on the subject.

Most truly yours in the gospel,

Elias Riggs.

Cons'ple, May 3, 1889.

P.S. If you think that I have misinterpreted the bearing of Dr. Noble's inquiries, and that it is better not to forward the inclosed, please retain or destroy it.

Recd May 20

Sleeper, Rev. William W.

309 - 350

mokov, Oct. 30. 1882.

Rec'd Nov. 25.

rrival —

Mr S.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Oct. 30, 1882–

Dear Dr. Clark,

Am I to announce
our safe arrival? We reach
our field the 14th inst. without
mishap or sickness. Dr. and
Mrs. Kingsbury came with
from Constantinople, and th
missionaries, their families
the members of the schools g
us a very hearty reception so
miles outside the city. Mr
has adopted us for the present,
our own rooms in the Semi
building are fast approachi
a habitable state. We are har

W. W. Sleeper

at work on the language, and shall undertake very little else until we can make ourselves understood by the people - We are greatly pleased with everything, and rejoice to be here -

With great respect,
Yours faithfully,
Wm. W. Sleeper -

remarked. "distributing the fire." Already the fruit of the trial is seen in the increased religious interest in both schools, especially the girls' school, where many seem to have reached the decisive step in the question of personal religion. The boys driven away will find evangelical work to do — one already sends back a cheering report from a village where little or no work has been done. He is there at his own expense, engaged in some kind of teaching, but finds much religious interest, and is himself greatly quickened.

I am convinced that this is a most important field, *at the present moment*: and hope to be equipped for my share of the work before very long.

As to our home, we are very comfortably situated; our rooms are pleasant and convenient, and we shall be sorry to leave them. At present there is no need, for this school, owing to the pressure of circumstances, could accommodate many more students before encroaching on our tenement.

Mrs. Sleeper is in excellent health and spirits, and joins me in thanking you for your well-wishes, and in expressions of personal regard for yourself and family. Very respectfully yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

W. W. Sleeper

Samokove. Bulgaria,
Feb. 10. 1883.
Rc'd March 10. 83

Dear Dr. Clark,

Thank you for your kind note of 15th ult. I thought all you would care to hear from me for the present, would be the fact that I am studying the language as industriously as seems advisable. My impressions of the work at this early day cannot be of value, but as you invite me, I will say that the work of touring and evangelizing beyond the three centers in our field seems the most pressing, as well as the most inviting. Some means should be devised for relieving some of the teachers here a larger part of the time, or else more laborers should be employed. There are constantly openings which the present force is utterly inadequate to fill.

It is quite too bad that the recent retrenchment has to bear so heavily upon the out-stations. If it can be made to produce larger contributions from the native friends, the result may, perhaps, be beneficial, but the indications are that some communities can only hear the Word a part of the time, while others, seeking the truth, must be left to themselves altogether. We shall do the best we can with the means at hand, but perhaps the time of self-support in this field is more distant than a majority of the Prudential Committee suppose. If home contributions make it possible, I hope a more generous allowance will be made for the destitute communities in this field.

The educational work in this Station would be exceedingly encouraging if certain influential parties in high quarters had not resolved to close up our schools, and were not seeking some pretext for so doing. You know that our Methodist brethren have come to grief with their flourishing school - in Sistov. Whether we shall share the same fate or not, is the question. The authorities are pleased to annoy us in various ways, to draft as many boys as they can into the army, rating this as a primary school (whose pupils are not exempt from draft, as are the upper classes in High Schools), and trying to frighten away the rest. A few months - perhaps weeks - will show us the extent of their purposes, and perhaps will decide the question. Mr. House visited Sophia last week, carrying a petition to the Prince for protection, and asking for the release of the two students now in the army. This petition has not met with a favorable response, a result which did not surprise us in the least. The British Consul at Sophia advises us, but does not enter very heartily into our case. I wish the United States would appoint a consul for Sophia, who would exert himself to have justice done us.

If they disperse the schools, it will only be, as a native friend the preachers, when needed truths can be emphasized -

Bro. Locke has undertaken a mission of no little difficulty and weariness to the flesh — that of visiting our persecuted brethren in Grumen, several days away in Macedonia. He was accompanied by the prayers and offerings of the missionaries and native brethren here! He may have to visit Salonica before accomplishing his purpose. This persecution is being pushed with great obstinacy, and although the high authorities have telegraphed repeatedly to stop the matter, nothing is accomplished. We have sent an advocate, and hope he may be successful -

Since our students who were required to present more satisfactory evidence to the Governor of Samokov that they were not citizens of Bulgaria, have returned from their various homes with credentials which cannot be found fault with, we have been enjoying a lull in the attempts to drive us away: and God has now put into our hands a weapon so mighty that, if we learn how to use it, we shall certainly win in this struggle for the highest welfare of Bulgaria -

Mrs. Sleeper and myself have been greatly delighted with our station, our work, & our home, from the beginning; and now, of course, more thankful than ever that we have been led here. All our circle are in usual health, and would, I am sure, join with us in expressions of personal regard and affection. Very sincerely yours: Wm. W. Sleeper -

Wm. W. Sleeper,

Recd April 13, 1883

Samokove, Mar. 3. 1883

Dear Dr. Clark,

Bro. House is so busy in the glorious work which has been given us to do, that perhaps he will not be able to write you about it, to-day: but you all have had such trials in the duty of reducing appropriations, and hearing the lament occasioned thereby, that our good news must not be kept over a mail.

" Perhaps the annoyances we have suffered from official attempts to scatter our students, were the occasion of deeper religious convictions in the hearts of the Church Members. Certainly, at the Brothers' Meeting conducted by Bro. Locke, a week ago last evening, the testimonies and prayers of the brothers and sisters assembled (I'm so thankful that the sisters are not afraid to use their gifts in the meetings) showed a depth of feeling that made us take courage at once. Those present immediately decided to begin a series of daily prayer-meetings, at 6 A.M., an hour not so can be emphasized -

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Recd April 4, 1883

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others rose and testified for the first time that they had chosen Christ. There were present quite a large number who are not *Protestants*; and as our friends talk with others whom they meet or visit for this purpose, they find that the Spirit is softening other hearts as well as our own. What the result may be, God knows; but I hope it will be very glorious. If all the nominal Christians = our little community are = perfect sympathy with Christ, and the work reaches all whom God will = our own community, will there not shine forth such a pure light from our chapel from day to day as shall illumine the whole city, and perhaps the whole land? It is great, but not too great, to pray for. Already there are but very few = this school, if indeed any, whose hearts have not been deeply touched by this visit of the Spirit; and a searching work is going on = the other school; indeed, for weeks, Miss Maltbie has had her hands full = giving counsel to those who were anxious about spiritual matters!

To-morrow is Communion Sunday. We are expecting a great blessing. Probably a second daily meeting will be started, beginning next Monday, at 5. P.M., when a short address will first be given by one of

Samokov, March 14. 1883.

Rec'd Apr. 13.

Samokove. Bulgaria,
March 14, 1883 -

Dear Dr. Clark,

You will rejoice with us that the work of grace in progress here has greatly moved nearly every heart in our Protestant community and in our schools. Only two or three in each of the schools are now outside the fold, as
Collegiate institute had 41
we believe. At a recent meeting in the girls' school, every member
26 + 35 day scholars
of the school took part, teachers and scholars; the few who could not testify to the love of Christ in their hearts, requesting the prayers of the rest for their own conversion - We have continued the daily 6, A.M. - prayer-meetings, and they have proved a great blessing to us all - In addition to these meetings there are daily neighborhood meetings at 4, P.M., in the houses of friends, and not infrequently we are welcomed to the home of families not yet Protestant, and meetings are held there -

long. The efforts to annoy us here have not been repeated, of late. Our friends in Dubnitza, where the home missionary sent out by Samokove Church has been working, are being troubled somewhat by the officials — not grievously, however, as yet. Bro. Locke has been obliged to go to Salonica in his efforts for the persecuted friends in Macedonia.

Messrs. House, Tsanoff and Sechanoff are all feeling rather miserably, and are in some danger of breaking down. We will not allow them to if we can help it. The time is not now so very far distant when one more shoulder can be put against the wheel.

With great respect and love,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Thus far no wide interest has prevailed outside our own little circle, but there are indications of a greater work opening before us. There is a spirit of work, and a spirit of earnest prayer for others, now being manifested in our meetings. We have organized our little company for work in the city, as well as we can, and some excellent tracts are being put into circulation.

Prayers are requested, sometimes very pathetically, for fathers, mothers, and brethren who are not Christians; and for cities and villages lying in darkness.

We feel that the work already wrought has been very important, and we are very anxious to see it widening in this city, and throughout the country. The work is very clearly of the Spirit alone, to whom be all the praise!

— Bro. Challis, of the Methodist Mission, is having hard work in Sophia to get his schools re-opened. The trouble seems clearly to come from the two or three very influential Russians in the Cabinet. We are hoping for a healthful change in affairs, before support of preaching and the management of a book-store in ~~Phil~~ Sophia, and the publishing of a volume entitled "Youth's Counsellor". The work in Sophia has proved very successful, and will be prosecuted with energy during the coming year. Able and interesting discussions were maintained, in the public ~~meetings~~ sessions of the meeting, on such topics as "True Prosperity," "Results of Christian Missions upon Education," "The three-fold Development of Man," etc. These discussions, as well as the prayer- and business-meetings, were largely attended, the audiences steadily increasing, until the capacity of the room was taxed to its utmost. A great number of young men was present, including teachers and pupils in the national schools. At length the leading city teachers came, and, being politely granted the floor, endeavored to destroy

Samokov, Bulgaria,
May 19, 1883.

Secretary Means,
Dear Sir,

Thank you for your kind letter, written at the departure of the other Secretaries. We are greatly disappointed, in Samokov, at the news that we must not expect a visit from either of them, and can only look forward to the overflow of inspiration which our delegate to Constantinople, Mr. Locke, may imbibe from their presence, and bring back to us! We hope Dr. Clarke will be able to influence the American Minister in Constantinople to look after our interests in this Principality a little more sharply. The Methodist brethren are unable to reopen their schools, and Mr. Challis is now in Constantinople.

We have been enjoying a cessation of active hostilities, in our educational work, for several months, but on Tuesday evening last we received notice from the local Inspector of Schools that we were required to employ a priest of the Eastern Orthodox Church to teach the Orthodox religion to all our scholars of Orthodox parentage. We applied to the Bishop of Samokov to recommend such a priest. The request was courteously received, and the Bishop promised to consider the matter, and send us word to-day; though he said it would be much easier to find laymen qualified for such work, than to find clergymen. We reserve the right to protest, to the proper officials, against such interference in our work.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of

~~the~~ Bulgarian Evangelical Society has just been held, in Kazanluk, a city of Eastern Roumelia, two days from Philippopolis, in the centre of the attar-of-rose district, and near the famous Shipka Pass. Efforts were made by the priests and influential citizens to prevent the meeting, by securing refusals of all the public halls, and liberally anathematizing all who should have anything to do with the Society, whose very name spread terror in the hostile camp. Our friends, however, managed to secure the large balcony of an old Turkish Konak, capable of holding nearly 200 people, and which proved to be a very pleasant, albeit breezy ~~and airy~~ room. The Society was found to number 210 members, and has now a capital of about ~~300 l~~ 600 liras. The principal work of the past year has been, the whatever favorable impressions the meetings had made upon their pupils, by denouncing the introduction of Protestantism into this country, assailing missionary enterprise and the aim and work of the Evangelical Society, defaming leading members of the Society there present, and even denying the propriety of prayers and hymns as a means of advancing the cause of truth. These men were ably answered, and excitement ran high for a time: but what threatened to be a storm ended in pleasant words, and we left the city in a state of deep agitation over questions apparently new to many of its inhabitants. May great good follow the raising of the question — "What is truth?"

I was charmed with the great

have ceased, but we trust the Spirit of Prayer will abide with us. Mr. House is holding weekly meetings with the recent converts, to instruct them in the leading principles of the faith — a catechetical class, using as an outline a translation of the Westminster Shorter Catechism —

We shall give Miss Stone a most hearty welcome, very soon, we hope, and also the new teacher for the Girls' School — if one is already appointed, as is rumored. All are in usual health, and Bro. House is to be congratulated upon the advent, last week, of a new daughter into his family —

Faithfully yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper —

Samokov, May 19. 1883.

Rec'd June 11. C. J

([illegible] S)

beauty of the country between here and Kazanluk. With an adequate system of agriculture, with factories on the mountain streams — mountain and plain touch each other in this land — with a helpful government, and with a manly faith, how gloriously this land would develope!

— I must mention one novel feature of the annual meeting of the Evangelical Society — the auction of articles made and contributed to the Society by friends who can only give labor. Cloth, articles of clothing, showing very careful and beautiful work, brought several times their market value. This shows the great interest taken in the Society by the entire Protestant Community —

The special prayer-meetings

Samokov, May 23, 1883.

Rec'd June 25.

V. Estimates

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Samokov, May 23, '83 -

Dear Dr. Clark,

I have come across a practical matter which puzzles me, and I appeal to you for advice -

One of our most promising students, Mr. Stoyánoff, must either be largely helped, or leave the school - His expenses are larger than those of the others, because he has a family. He is now at the end of the third year only, and so not nearly equipped for the work of a preacher, which we all feel he should undertake - His Protestant faith excludes him from any hope of assistance from his relatives. He has thus far supported himself from the proceeds of his former teaching in the national schools: but within a few weeks he has been obliged to borrow money for his daily bread. Personally his case is exceedingly interesting -

Now, supposing the exhausted funds at our command permit his being placed on the charity list, he can only receive 8 liras a year cash from such funds, at most through this journey!

Mrs. Sleeper joins me in best regards, in which your daughter is included -

With great respect,
Yours, etc., Wm. W. Sleeper -

Consult the Station & mission & if they approve report it as a contingent - to be met by contingent appropriations - Then special appeals can be made in a regular way -

The case seems urg
Hope it may be me
N. G. C.

To live, he will need about 30 liras annually. Only a small amount can be earned in evangelical work during the vacations, if his wife works too, as she did during the recent recess. It would be an easy matter for me to interest a few friends in America in his behalf, and I feel confident that their special gifts would not be subtracted from their regular contributions to the Board. But I am informed that such contributions for individuals are strongly discouraged by the officers of the Board, and that the only way in which gifts can reach such a person as Mr. Stoyanoff, *through the Board*, is by having my friends place the amount they wish to give *to my personal credit*, *without explanation*. This looks underhanded, and I do not want to employ such means.

But Stoyanoff must be helped. How can it be done? I am willing to do all I can personally, but think it best to divide the little I can devote to direct charity among several objects. Is there no way, through the Board, of bringing together *for special cases*, benefactors and beneficiaries?

— We were planning on a visit from yourself, your daughter, and others, and are greatly disappointed. Health to you

Samokov. Bulgaria,
Oct. 5th 1883 -

Dear Dr. Clark,

Miss Harriet L. Cole arrived in good health and spirits on the 2nd inst., and was met in the usual hearty style a short distance outside the city by horse and foot. Miss Stone accompanied her hither from Constantinople. Miss Spooner reached Monastir safely, in company with Mr. Pettibone. We were electrified by a telegram from Bro. Challis, the other day, saying his schools were opening. His sublime patience is now rewarded. So much from the late political revolution at Sophia. For our part we are only meeting with friendly words and faces; our letter to the Inspector of Schools telling him that we cannot allow a Priest in our schools has elicited no reply, though we feared a tempest. A priest was already designated for that work, but apparently the whole matter has blown over. Our schools are prosperous, though a few more pupils could be accommodated in each.

We learn of the successful closing of the financial year with great satisfaction, and are remembering the annual meeting of the Board. May it be a grand occasion, and lead our noble people to support their grand foreign work with more zeal and sacrifice than ever before.

You will be interested, I am sure, to learn that Sept. 14th brought to Mrs. Sleeper and myself a fine boy, who seems to thrive on Bulgarian soil. If he can never become President of the United States, may he be led to some useful work in the Master's Kingdom.

I thank you for your fidelity in delivering to Mr. Locke my tuning-fork. It is an important factor in the musical development of the youth in our schools!

With great respect and love,
Very truly yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
Nov. 30th 1883.

Dear Dr. Clark,

Saturday last, in company with Mr. Litchanoff, one of our teachers, I made a little tour to one of our out-stations, Banya, in Eastern Rumelia, going afoot for exercise. I was so much encouraged by what we saw and heard in that village, and the neighboring one of Kostenitz, that I want to tell you about it.

"Our service in Banya was held in ~~one~~ a ~~of the~~ private house~~s~~, the room containing 25. Some of these were new hearers, who seemed deeply moved by Mr. Litchanoff's sermon. One man frequently interjected approving remarks, or illustrations of the points discussed. I was particularly interested in a young man, sitting by me, who has been invited several times to attend the Protestant meetings, and who is convinced of the truth, knows his duty, but evidently hesitates to take the step which will subject him to so much ridicule and reproach. He wants to attend our School in Samakov.

"The friends in Kostenitz hire a neat and convenient room, appropriately fitted up as a chapel. The work here is prospering hopefully, and the helper, who is supplying both these villages, is doing faithful, earnest work. The man who last year held the office of "Kmet," or mayor, of the village, has recently joined himself to the little band that fills the room every Sunday. The leaven is working in Kostenitz. Our friends seem to feel that they are responsible for the progress of the Kingdom of God in that village, as far as men can be responsible for the work of the Lord. The example of one follower is especially telling to ~~those~~ all who know him. He attended one of the special daily prayer-meetings held during the last week of prayer, was convicted on the spot, and fully surrendered his heart to Christ in the first prayer-meeting he had ever attended. His father was bitterly enraged, and tried every means to persuade his son to forsake his new faith; and finally disinherited him, and turned him out of doors with his family. One of the older brethren gave him a field to cultivate on the halves, as a protection against want. The harvest was abundant, and the young man, having gathered his ~~the~~ moiety, with filial love as strong and simple as ever, went to his father, and offered to divide it with him. The father's heart was moved to the core; ~~an~~ he burst into tears, and sobbed like a child. He begged his son to return home. "I cannot give up my faith." said the son. "I don't care about that, only come back again." "But I must make my new friends welcome to my home. they will want to come sometimes and hold meetings in our house." "Let them come and hold meetings as often as they like; do just as you want to, only come back, and I will never persecute you again!" The young man returned, and his father kept his word. ~~and~~ His conduct toward the Protestants is entirely changed: mockery and insult have given place to respect and interest.

We remembered Martin Luther in a simple commemorative service, which took the place of one of the Church prayer-meetings. A choir of forty students selected from both the schools sang Luther's chorale "Ein Feste Burg," in a new Bulgarian translation, with much spirit. This choir forms my first class in singing, and meets for weekly drill. I am greatly pleased with the musical ability of the students, and the great interest with which they study. The choir will soon be able to sing very acceptably the simpler forms of Church music, and all our students are being drilled as rapidly as possible in vocalization and reading at sight. I am very glad to hear that another organ is forthcoming for the Institute. The boys are eager to learn how to play the hymn-tunes, and will teach themselves if they can have the opportunity.

I have not forgotten your emphatic advice at our Farewell Meeting on the matter of learning the language first of all, and I have followed it pretty faithfully, but when there are only four teachers for six classes, it seems imperative for me to act as fifth as much as possible. I must do it, or else give up several important branches. I am teaching the Life and Epistles of Paul, Isaiah, and have recently finished the Hebrews. This gives me regular work with three classes, besides the music. But I keep up study and conversation in Bulgarian, and am gaining ground. The preparation I am obliged to make now for these classes will stand me in good stead next year, and give me time even then for regular Bulgarian study. I celebrated the anniversary of our arrival in Samakov by preaching my first Bulgarian sermon.

Mrs. Sleeper sends regards, and so does our little two-months' James Taylor Sleeper. Affectionately and with great respect,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Rec'd Dec. 26.

Nov. 30, 1883,

W. W. Sleepe

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 23, 1884.

Dear Dr. Clark,

I want to acknowle
the arrival of the new orga
slightly damaged, but per
serviceable. It has an agree
tone, a beautiful case, an
warmly welcomed by a
I should like to express the t
of the School to the donors,
if you please will do so, a
this may serve, as you p
It will be a thoroughly used i
ment, which ought to be th
highest ambition of a cabi
organ.

Your thoughtful su
through Mr. House in refere
adapting Bulgarian melo
to sacred words is receivin
my best attention. So fa

I am able to judge at present, the new melodies, quickly learned by our friends, are more acceptable than their own would be. The folk-songs are wedded to words and ideas which would suggest themselves in spite of the Christian hymns. My original intention was to try and develope a native psalmody, but I am not sure but that transplanting is the best thing.

I am making a collection of Bulgarian melodies which may grow valuable one of these days.

With best salutations,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
March 29, 1884-

Dear Dr. Clark,

Mr. House asks me to answer some questions which you have asked in reference to Sophia, as I was purposing to write today-

There is imperative need of a new Chapel in Sophia, for two reasons; the present accommodations are too meagre for the audience, and a projected street will very soon tunnel us out, root and branch- The property now in hand can be sold for enough to purchase a very desirable site, in the best quarter of the city. The friends in Sophia have already raised 120 Russian pols (about $480) among themselves, towards a new edifice, and hope to increase the amount to $800 or more. To build a suitable edifice will require, say, $2000. It must be of brick, — city regulation. — and of course respectable and attractive- Perhaps even more will be required- The Evangelical Society may possibly make a grant, but I fear the condition of the treasury will not allow much. We think the Sophia friends are doing admirably, considering their weakness.

About an organ. Dr. Mateucheff thinks he may find one himself among American friends. If he fails, we will let you know. An instrument will be a necessity. I am training an organist for the organ — one of the present teachers in the Girls' School, who soon marries a Sophia friend (follower). The next thing will be, to find an organ for the organist! You will be interested to know that she is doing finely as a player, and I am sure we shall be proud of our first Bulgarian organist!

As to Dr. Mateucheff's salary. The Evangelical Society give him 10 Turkish liras per month, with permission to practice medicine on his own account. The amount raised in Sophia toward his salary is deducted from the 10 liras. The 130 liras granted to the Society by the Board assists the former in employing two helpers besides Dr. Mateucheff, — a colporteur and an employé in the bookstore. Last year the Society paid for employés 300 liras, of which sum we granted 130.

Dr. Mateucheff seems to be doing very

faithful work as preacher, and has gained a good deal of confidence as a physician. He has cured some cases in the more aristocratic circles which the other doctors had given up. Consequent prestige! The Prince appointed him Secretary of the Medical Council, and he is doing his best to introduce more liberal measures in medical affairs. He is well-known as the Protestant preacher, and has won some new followers. The atmosphere in Sophia evidently more rarefied than here in Samokov, if we are 400 metres higher than the Capital; as recent proof of greater density here. —— Mr. Tsanoff was threatened last week with prosecution by our enlightened mayor, because he had circulated hand-bills inviting the citizens to attend a free lecture upon the material resources of Samokov and the means of developing them! It was interesting to note that the Governor of this province, who has been so hostile to us until recently, was himself present at the lecture, and was extremely cordial, both to lecturer and missionary.

I must tell you of a ~~the~~ (3) immense Temperance meeting. (2) we had (1) Two weeks ago. Mr. Tsanoff was its mainspring.

and by judicious advertising our chapel was packed by 400 eager and respectful listeners. The programme was divided among several speakers, Mr. Tsanoff making a most stirring plea for temperance, backing up his eloquence by some startling statistics gathered in Samokov. ~~My~~ our chorus of students — some 40 young ladies and gentlemen from the schools — sang with great credit an original temperance song by Mr. Tonjoroff, and a translation of the well-known "Father, dear father, come home to me now," &c.

"It is curious to speculate upon the decline of priestly influence even in this dense atmosphere; for on the morning of that very day the priests had warned their flock *not* to attend that meeting, and to have no dealings with us. Our morning audience that day was the largest I have seen here, except at the temperance meeting that afternoon. There is a greater readiness to hear the truth in Samokov than perhaps ever before. Some interesting evangelistic work has been done lately, with no opposition; even a street service was uninterrupted. Several sewing-schools have been started in different parts of the city, and we hope fruit may come from these agencies;

Encouraging reports come in from the outstations, and give us great cheer."

We have been having some unpleasant cases of discipline in the school, which have been an affliction, as some boys whom we trusted have proved weak. Now all is quiet, and pleasant. Some tremendous school rebellions are on foot in other parts of the country — over 2000 expelled from Philippopolis gymnasium (or voluntarily left.) and an entire class from another, I am informed. Perhaps we had received just the wash of the tide, but we are unhurt. Some of our boys are a great satisfaction.

Dr. Kingsbury is making every effort to master the medical problem, and is certainly making progress. We trust he will soon be fully in his chosen work, which will give him an immense influence for good. In spite of present obstacles, he has a good deal of practice, and would be completely submerged if he could freely open his doors to the multitude —

We are rejoicing over the prospect of Bro. Clarke's speedy return. He is certainly greatly needed in Samokov, and is just the link needed to complete our little garrison — — Samokov expects to be thoroughly represented in the annual meeting at Monastir, next month. We propose to satisfy the brethren of Macedonia with abundance of northern guests. Dr. and I propose going en famille, with Miss Graves as representative of the Girls' School, and Mr. Thomson and Miss Stone from Philippopolis. Six days of travel in taligas and on horseback ought to bring us within sight of that region which is said to be unsurpassed in natural beauty by Switzerland, or any other part of Europe. We all need the exercise!

With salutations from all,

Very truly & respectfully,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, Mar. 27. 1884.
Rec'd Apr. 21.

Samokov. Bulgaria,
April 9. 1884.

Sec'y N. G. Clark. D.D.,

Dear Sir,

In accordance with yours of Feb. 11th. suggesting that this Station should make a representation of the need of extra aid for students, I am instructed to inform you that we are wholly without means for employing our Christian students in evangelical work during the summer vacation of this year. The interests of the work demand such labor, as well as the practical benefit to the students. We therefore ask a special grant for this year, to be applied to the above object, of at least 50 pounds Turkish.

With great respect,
In behalf of Samokov Station,
W. W. Sleeper. Sec'y.

Monastir, Turkey-in-Europe,
April 25, 1884.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Sec'y American Board,
Dear Sir:—

I am instructed by the European Turkey Mission, now holding its Meeting for 1884, to communicate to you the following matters, explanatory of certain items in the accompanying minutes.

Owing doubtless to the fact that this Meeting occurs two months earlier in the year than usual, the Secretary has received from Boston no notification of the sum which should be made the basis of estimates for 1885; but knowing that the Western Turkey Mission has been instructed to work upon the same basis as the amount appropriated for 1884, we have feared that no larger amount could be relied upon by this Mission, and we have accordingly brought down our estimates, aside from the salaries of missionaries, to the amount found by subtracting the salaries granted for 1884 from 6,600. liras Turkish, the total grant to us for the same year. In doing this, however, we have been obliged to put certain sums upon the contingent list which we feel are necessary for the proper carrying on of our work, and which would certainly appear in the regular estimates did we not feel ourselves bound by the request of the Prudential Committee not to ask more than the sum designated by them each year as the basis of estimates. The pressure of our work for enlargement as well as for support is so great that we must beg to remind the Prudential Committee that this Mission has by no means reached the point where a considerable and constantly increasing proportion of the work can be undertaken by the native Protestant communities, but is in that stage of development where a decided increase of expenditure in the department of Native Agency is demanded by the best interests of the field. Never before has there been such a readiness to hear the Gospel, with so few obstacles in the path of its rapid advance. Villages and cities are crying out for spiritual guides. The Mission possesses the full confidence of its small, but vigorous staff of Bulgarian co-laborers: and the native communities are on the whole progressing nobly in the direction of self-support. But not to advance is to retreat: and unless the work of Native Agency is prosecuted more vigorously, we cannot advance. We ask you to bear in mind this view of the case when the funds are proportioned to the various Turkish Missions, and when additional contributions to the Treasury of the Board make it possible to increase the appropriations.

The resignation of Miss Crawford, as teacher in the Girls' School in Monastir, gave rise to the question, how can the immediate needs of that School be met?. The Monastir brethren desired to call Miss Stone from her work, to take charge of the School until a new teacher from America could prepare herself for the position: but the great importance of the new work which Miss Stone has just succeeded in organizing, and the conviction that her transfer to the School would seriously discourage and injure that work, led the Mission to doubt the wisdom of such a step, if any other working arrangement can possibly be made. The vote finally passed will allow the Trustees of the School to invite her, or one of the American teachers in Samokov, to this post temporarily, if Miss Spooner's health proves unreliable, and to use whatever influence the Mission is authorized to exercise in the matter.

The resolution in regard to the enlargement of the Girls' School-building in Samokov was prompted by the fact that the lease of the building which now very imperfectly accommodates the preparatory department of that School expires in 1885, without the possibility or desirability of renewal. It should be added that besides the resolution referred to, two other plans were proposed: one, that the house now occupied as a residence by Mr. Locke, adjacent to the School premises, be appropriated to the uses of the School. Besides the natural reluctance which the Mission felt to vote away Mr. Locke's home, Samokov Station has now only as many dwelling-houses as missionary families. It would be possible, if deemed on the whole advisable, to make such changes in one of the houses that two families could be accommodated in it. A few alterations in Mr. Locke's house would enable it to meet the needs of the School.

The second alternative suggested was, that the Prudential Committee authorize the friends of the School to solicit for its enlargement special funds in America. Such a measure, if successful, could hardly be carried out in time to accommodate the sessions of 1886. and it is fair to say that the Trustees and Teachers of the School know not where to apply for such an amount.

Our Meeting has been a delightful one, characterized by great harmony of opinion: and we trust that the blessing of the Holy Spirit will enable our counsels to advance the Kingdom of Christ in this land.

With affectionate salutations of the Mission, and in their behalf,

I am,

Most respectfully yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper

Samokov, Bulgaria,
May 17, 1884.

Dear Dr. Clark,

At the recent Annual Meeting in Monastir, the following vote was passed: —

"**Resolved**: That the Mission heartily endorses the request of the Bulg. Evang. Society for aid in the purchase of a House of Worship in Sophia, and delegates to Samokov Station the presentation of the case to the Prudential Committee."

This was prompted by the official ~~request~~ statement made by the representative present of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, that ~~a grant~~ the amount of 300 liras Turkish ~~be requested~~ would probably be needed for the above purpose. (No specified amount was asked for, in Monastir, by the representative of the Society.)

At a meeting of this Station, 14th inst., I was requested to notify the Prudential Committee that in the opinion of this Station an immediate grant of 200 (two hundred) liras Turkish would secure the purchase of a convenient and commodious edifice, strongly-built and well-situated, which can accommodate a large congregation, and answer every purpose until the people themselves can erect a church-building. The need is very urgent, and the Station endorses the letter recently written you on this subject by Mr. House. The Station cannot consent to have the above sum, or any fraction of it, deducted from the regular or contingent appropriations granted this mission, for 1884 or 1885. With this condition, we earnestly urge the Committee to make the special grant above asked — two-hundred £.T., — to the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, to be immediately applied in providing improved accommodations for the evangelical congregation of Sophia.

In answer to yours of March 24, asking how the School organ was damaged, — the case is exceedingly weak; the ebony finish being put upon a soft wood, easily split. The bottom of the case was badly broken, pedals tearing away from the case, castors wrenched off. It can be mended by iron or wooden braces, though two of the castors cannot be replaced. It would be much safer and better to send the plainest, stoutest cases to foreign lands. The "Mansard Roof" cases are a great expense in shipping, are apt to get broken, are certainly no ornament, and decidedly in the way when the organist wishes to lead public singing. A cabinet organ ought always to stand between the organist and the chorus, school, or congregation; and anything built higher than the music-rack is waste lumber and a great inconvenience. Of course I am speaking in general, and am just as thankful for the good instrument sent me, as though it were faultless -

I enclose one or two native melodies for your daughter to play to you. You will notice a decided difference in character between them and the religious music of America, which is being capitally sung by my mixed chorus of students. We are to have a series of Sunday-afternoon Praise-meetings, in which the singing will be led by this chorus, to be followed by a simple Gospel address to the people, whom we hope to attract by the music. This is a new method of work; may it prove successful!

In answer also to yours of 21st ult., let me say that Dr. Matincheff has already secured an organ for Sophia, as I understand. It is believed to be now in Constantinople custom house. When it arrives I shall go to Sophia and have an "organ opening."

You will receive particulars of the Annual Meeting, which I had the pleasure of attending, with Mrs. Sleeper and "Jamie", through the official source. Samokov Station is distressed in having absolutely necessary ~~appropriations~~ estimates cut down, or put into the hopeless limbo of the Contingent List — A resignation would certainly have been tendered, unless we had been assured by Drs. Riggs and Wood, at Monastir, that the funds thus relieved could not be placed to the credit of the mission for use in field-work. The case here is distressing, because our field — Samokov field — is suffering for want of tillage. We dare not ask enough for touring, for employing a single graduate of the present Senior class to enter our field, or for sending out a single student to do a day's work during vacation, (For the Easter vacation we sent out about a dozen students, with no funds in hand, knowing that we may have to pay them from our own salaries,) owing to the iron rule made last year in Constantinople, that no Turkish mission shall thereafter ask for a sum greater than the amount designated each year by the Prudential Committee — As no sum has been designated this year to us, we felt bound to stand by the appropriations of last year.

Rec'd June 9.

We have just learned, in Samokov, that certain Stations in other Turkish Missions were credited this year with more money than they needed. Does not this indicate that a new adjustment of approp^ns should be made, more favorable to the needs of this youngest of the Turkish fields? — With great respect, Yours, &c — Wm. W. Sleeper —

Samokov, Bulgaria,
June 14, 1884-

Dear Dr. Clark,

" I had the pleasure of being in Sophia on a ~~last~~ (Sunday, [illegible]) with my family, and of opening the new organ which Dr. Matincheff had just received from the Sunday-School of the Davenport Church, New Haven. It is a good fair instrument, and will be a valuable assistance in the work. The organist will be a Bulgarian, and I am gratified that many of our younger friends are learning to play as well as sing the Songs of Zion. I am so impressed by the attractive power of an American organ that I propose to order soon a "baby-organ" with legs accommodating enough to fold up, so it can accompany me on future tours.

" The little chapel was crowded, as it usually is. Nearly 200 were present. The friends have ceased to invite people to attend their worship because there is absolutely no room for more. We are all anxiously awaiting the good news that 200 Pounds ~~Liras~~ Turkish are is placed to our credit for a new chapel in Sophia. The plan of purchasing an existing building is being given up, as the price of the building has risen, and it would not be so desirable a property as a ~~larger~~ new building on the lot already occupied & owned by the Evangelical Society. The projected street will cut off a part of this lot, but it is thought that damages received will enable enough additional land to be purchased for the accommodation of the proposed building. By a law of this land permission to build a Church edifice cannot be obtained until the commissioners have proof that enough funds are secured for the completion of the building. If Mr. Kimball wants relief, let him come to Bulgaria! - So our friends must not only count the cost, but have it in their pockets before the first step can be taken. Dr. Matincheff was feeling rather discouraged about the prospect of receiving aid from Boston, as nothing had been heard, but I tried to reassure him. He thinks 500 liras should be the lowest sum aimed at, and that if 200 liras be received from Boston, the balance can be raised here.

I was greatly pleased with his success in his difficult field, and his great interest in the work. He has an attractive manner, and wins many friends. ¶ "One of the new followers in Sophia is an army officer, who has endured persecution for his convictions, but stands firm, and wants to unite with the church."

We rejoice at the news of the granting of the Contingent for employing our students during vacation. A circular vote is being passed, as you suggested.

Very respectfully yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, Bulgaria, June 14.

Rec'd. July 7.

✓

Samokov, Bulgaria, Aug. 2, 1884.

Secy N. G. Clark, D.D.,

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Girls' Boarding School, Samokov, July 15th, your letter to Mr. Locke referring back to this Station the recent Mission vote asking for a special grant of L.T. 350 for improvements upon the building of the School, was considered, and the following minute passed:—

"Voted, That we see no reason for changing our former opinion upon the matter of a grant for enlarged accommodations for the Girls' Boarding School."

The Trustees submit the following reasons for their endorsement of the Mission vote referred to:—

First, Even if the Primary School were not incorporated into the Boarding School, the improvements contemplated would be needed.

1. The main school-room is crowded, and needs enlargement.

2. This room is too dark, as all its windows are screened by porticos.

3. There are no suitable recitation rooms.

4. The dormitories are filled to overflowing, and the growth of the School requires more space—

5. There is no reception-room for visitors. At present the teachers' dining-room, or the library-room, is used, but neither is suitable.
6. There is no room for the matron.
7. There is no place for a sick-room, a want which the Doctor especially urges to be met.

The above reasons seem to us sufficient to justify the expenditure of the sum asked. But Secondly. While theoretically not one of us approves of taking the management of the Primary School out of native hands and putting it under the exclusive control of the Girls' School, and while all are agreed that at the earliest practicable moment the Primary School should be restored to the Protestant Community, the fact is that the present arrangement, adopted in 1881 after a thorough discussion, whereby the two schools were placed under the same management, has secured a better Primary School, at much less trouble and no more expense, than existed before. It has been agreed that both boys and girls should be admitted into the Primary School, on payment of a small tuition fee. Fully as much if not more money is raised thus from the Community, in an easier manner than before. The Community in Samokov is very small, and feels itself unable at present to provide as good a School as we now enjoy.

Besides this, the attempt to separate the two Schools just now, which have been united and prosperous since 1881, would seriously disturb the work of an institution which is now in a very successful condition, and whose results are proving every year more satisfactory.

I am authorized by the Trustees to inform you that Mr. Locke dissents from their conclusions.

Very respectfully & sincerely yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper. Secy.

Rec'd Aug. 25.

✓

Girls B. School

Samokov, Aug. 30, 1884.

Dear Dr. Clark,

I am convinced that my usefulness as a tourist, when I shall begin to share in that work, will be immensely increased if I can take about with me a "baby" organ. Mason & Hamlin manufacture a style which they fold compactly into a neat case, which can easily be taken on horse-back or in a carriage. They will sell me the best "baby" for $27.~~25~~50, ~~$~~ a four-octave instrument. I should like to have such an organ for this purpose. The Bulgarian preachers assure me that it would draw large audiences, and hold them, too. It would assist in worship, besides being a great attraction. I want to utilize to the utmost the great love for music with which this people is gifted. I hope to make a tour next year with Pastor Boyajieff, who has a splendid voice and knows how to use it in effective singing. With the organ we could supply plenty of music.

If you can send me

one directly from headquarters, all right; if not, perhaps you can authorize me to appeal to some Sunday-School in America to supply the organ and necessary expenses. Such a gift would in all probability not detract a dollar from the regular supply of funds for Board uses.

If you can send direct, the instrument I want is Mason & Hamlin Style 110, folded in case.

A Station Conference is now in session, and at present two candidates are being examined for license to preach. The meetings have been very stimulating. The best of feeling prevails. There are many encouraging signs in our field. The prospect for scholars in ensuing year is about as usual. All say that if our students were not liable to the draft, this school would be filled. We have re-petitioned the ministry to relieve us of this injustice. The cabinet is now very liberal. The

Prime Minister was lately in Samokov, and paid us and our schools a two-hours' visit. He is a good man, we believe, too good to stay, perhaps.

In Sophia, Dr. Matincheff is a great deal discouraged because no relief has come from Boston to aid him & the friends in Sophia toward Church-building. We in Samokov share the disappointment of our brethren in Sophia. If they do not sell all that they have, and give it to this one object, they cannot for many years have the building which the work imperatively demands. A lot has been purchased with the funds already raised. If no help can come from the treasury, may we not appeal to individuals to come to the rescue?

Very sincerely & respectfully
Yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov Aug. 30.

Rec'd Sept. 22. 84.

Mr Hutchins ✓ ✓

Baby Organ

دولت علیه اتحاد پوسته لری (۴۱)

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(~ [illegible] Sleeper) ✓

Speedier that art of prayer

Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark,

Dear Sir—

A circular vote came last night, and is now signed in the affirmative by all the members of the mission, approving Mr. Sleeper's request for a $23^{50} organ to be used in touring. I will send the vote to Dr. Kingsbury, but as it may be delayed or even lost on the way to Bulgaria, I volunteer this postal hoping that Bro. S. may get the instrument sooner— All in usual health—

Monastir, Oct. 31, /84.

Yours truly, L. B. Jr

'84.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
April 21, 1885.

Secy N. G. Clark, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Clark,

Your letter of March 20 I found awaiting me on our return from Bansko, where the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Society has just been held. I have sent nothing to Boston of late, because my work brings me usually into contact with little but the daily routine of school duties. As you ask a personal question or two, I will say that Mrs. Sleeper, Jamie and myself are all in good health, thank you: that we are getting more accustomed to our duties, and more deeply interested in the work; that circumstances have so changed, owing to deficient strength at other Stations, that we have postponed our partly-formed notion of seeking a transfer say to the Austrian Mission, and so relieving what seemed to me a rather high pressure of American steam at this point; and that the Station has just voted to rent us the Locke house, when its present occupants shall vacate it. Mrs. Sleeper is happy in the thought that for the first time in 6 years she will now have a house — not a dormitory building — to live in, and I might say, for 10 years, personally. There are very many inconveniences in endeavoring to have a home in a school-house, which while very willing to endure when necessary, are best dispensed with when better accommodations are empty. Before long I think we should feel obliged to seek a home outside the Missionary Premises. This vote does not settle the question whether or not the Girls' School shall occupy the Locke house. The lady teachers do not ~~wish~~ need enlarged accommodations befor a year from next Summer, but have decided to accommodate themselves, if the Station approves, with making a few changes of partition in the Second Story of their building. I feel confident that the plan of using the Locke house will not be acceptable to the teachers. I have urged it personally, several times, with no success. But if it should finally be decided to appropriate the house for that purpose, Mrs. Sleeper and I will be very willing to vacate it, thankful for the comfort we shall already have enjoyed in it.

As for Bansko and the Annual Meeting of the Evang. Society, I would like to reserve what I have to say until I find time to prepare an illustrated article for the "Herald," materials for which are partly collected. The forthcoming issue of the "Missionary News" will be devoted to the Bulg. Evangel. Society.

It is as yet impossible for the friends in Sophia to settle upon a satisfactory plan for their Church edifice. I was surprised to hear the latest statement from there — that nothing would be done until means were in hand for building an edifice to seat 1000 people. The friends seem very sanguine that such a building would be filled at once. It is all right to aim high, but the moon isn't a good target. I wish they would be content to build a much smaller and plainer chapel, which in course of time, as the congregation grows, will be used as the Lecture Room, or other auxiliary of a fine, handsome Church edifice, built entirely by said prospective congregation. The sentence in "Missionary News" to the effect that nearly enough was subscribed for building, was prompted by a more modest idea of the necessities of the case than Dr. Martincheff seems to entertain.

We are perplexed to know what measures to take for the upbuilding of the Coll. & Theo. Institute. It seems clear to me that something needs to be done. The number of students is diminishing, and our confidence is shaken in some that remain. I am approaching the belief that the money we grant in aid for the boys is in many, if not most, cases, so much poison. Self-support in Schools is the problem constantly before my mind. I am not sure but what an industrial school, on a very small and simple scale, would be practicable, and would solve the difficulty. Our little printing-office can furnish work enough for one student. Another earns quite a little by bookbinding. One or two are good cabinet-makers. One knows something of shoe-making. All are farmers & gardeners. One trouble would be, Samokov is an exceedingly poor market, and transportation is expensive. On the other hand, vast quantities of water race ~~themselves~~ to waste down our plain, & raw-materials are abundant and cheap. I have suggested ~~that~~ we engage as teacher a Mr. Vitanoff, a Christian man, graduate of Robt. College, who has studied Mechanics in England, & has been managing an Industrial, or rather Technical, School in Sophia, but is now out of employment. ~~It~~ is not, however, ~~thought~~ practicable at present. We are expecting to lose Mr. Sitchanoff, who has about decided to accept the pastorate of Bansko Church.

We have now only 18 students, in 6 classes. Of these, 4 will graduate in July, and we fear the number of students will be still less next year. 8 ~~7~~ of the present number of students are wholly self-supporting. 5 receive the full grant-in-aid, of 10 and 12 liras, and the others receive less sums. It does not seem wise to detail so large a force to instruct so few boys; and yet, with the present number of classes, we cannot get along with less. We could teach 200 as easily as 20.

If a wise arrangement could be made whereby the boys could support themselves, and have it so understood, I believe we should have many more students, of a much better average quality, more independent, ready to work, and capable, if need be, of helping themselves. For all this, we lack light, as well as means.

The beneficiaries whom we receive from Bansko, have been required by the Church in Bansko, to sign a bond, which binds them to pay in full all school-bills, provided they leave the school for any reason, except sickness, before the end of the course. These bonds are also signed by the father of the applicant, or some other responsible person, and attested by a formidable array of witnesses. This is the sensible work of Pastor Vlaeff, now resigned, and gives us a ray of light on the vexed question.

Very truly yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper

Samokov, April 21. 1885.

Rec'd May 23.

✓

Samokov. June 1, 1885,

Dear Dr. Clark,

I enclose a copy of the Statistics last requested. If you consider the amount spent by the people last year in Church Building, I think you will be gratified at the indications that the day of Self Support may be dawning here. I am exceedingly interested in the matter of Self Support, and know personally that some of the native brethren fully see the necessity of putting that principle into action as soon as possible.

These new Statistics cause no little perplexity, because our out-stations are many of them worked together, on a single appropriation, and you wish each given in detail. I have done the best I knew, and hope the result is intelligible.

Although Sophia is worked wholly by the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, I thought, for the sake of completeness, you would like the details of work there, so I have entered it on all returns as an outstation of Samokov. Strictly speaking, neither Dubnitza nor Sophia are our outstations, since we merely aid the Evangelical Society which sees fit to maintain preaching there.

I have asked my father to forward to you, for ~~approval~~ perusal, a letter I have written to his church, describing the result of my first tour with the Missionary Organ lately donated by that church. I thought you might be interested in the trial of a new experiment for this field. I should say, at least 400 new hearers were won by the little organ on that short trip. Even if the 400 do not attend regularly, they have been caught once, and probably more would come on a second invitation from the Organ.

I hope to make an extended tour this summer, with a native preacher, in which, if the plan succeeds, we shall doubtless think of the American Evangelists, who go out two by two, preaching and singing.

Very truly yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper

June 1 1883.
Activities —
Japan

I have asked my father to forward to you for ~~approval~~ perusal, a letter I have written to his church describing the result of my first tour with the Missionary Organ lately donated by that church. I thought you might be interested in the trial of a new experiment for this field. I should say at least 400 new hearers were won by the little organ on that first trip. Even if [illegible] do not attend

Samokov. Bulgaria,
July 29, 1885,

Dear Dr. Clark,

Yours of June 23rd, asking me to write something for the Sunday-School at West Roxbury, in regard to the Baby Organ, is received. You have doubtless received from my father, a long description of my first trip with this instrument, and I presume you can utilize a part of the letter for the benefit of said School. If more is desirable, I will be glad to send something further. We are finding the instrument of great value in a Sunday afternoon neighborhood meeting. I begin these meetings, in a large, open room, near the street, sometimes with scarcely a person present; but after a few hymns played and sung, people begin to gather, and our audiences, not numbering the friends, average ~~perhaps~~ 30–40, many of them being Jews, also Turks, and Bulgarians. We have never before succeeded in reaching Jews-

In course of the service, Scripture is read, prayer offered, and a faithful, practical address is very attentively listened to. This is followed by other remarks. We make no attempt to conceal Christ, tho' our Scripture lessons have been uniformly from the Old Testament, to awaken interest among our Jewish hearers.

A rather curious circumstance has grown out of my musical activity here. There is a wealthy Synagogue of Jews — Samokov — they number 1000 souls — and the leaders have purchased an organ, music from Paris, & have besought me to help them organize a Choir for their Synagogue worship. As this gives me access to them — the most favorable circumstances, I am spending an hour each Saturday, during the vacation, in helping them learn their beautiful sacred hymns. I think one of my own music-pupils will be able to carry on the work with them, when my time shall be demanded for more imperative duties. Last Sunday this pupil, who has received from me ~~perhaps~~ 5 to 10 minutes a week of instruction in organ playing for a portion of the last two school years, played the organ in our Service very acceptably, while I occupied the pulpit. In a very few years, our young preachers & Bible women, many of them, will be much better qualified in *one* very important respect, for winning attention & interest to the truth, than the vast majority of American Christian workers. These young Bulgarians take to music, vocal and instrumental, with great avidity, and with surprising success.

I am aware that it has been suggested to you that I am giving our *students* too much music gratuitously. I am warmly supported in what I do by the Station as a whole, and the results of my experiment already commend the work to the entire Mission, and I think I may say, to neighboring missions. During the past School year, I have actually given

1 hour per week in vocal music to Boys' School,
1 " " " " " " Girls' "
½ " " " " organ " " Boys' School;

and I propose organizing a special class in Girls' School, with full approval of Misses Maltbie & Graves, on the organ, of girls with special musical ability, who are in training for evangelical work, and being already beneficiaries, of course have no money to pay for extra music. But really, how much money could be expected, even from self-supporting students, for 5 minutes per week of instruction? I shall receive pay, in a measure, from these special students, by asking them to do favors in music-copying, hektographing, &c., and last year I received a good deal of gratis work from some of the boys in my organ class, — and a good deal of very manifest gratitude, which together with the progress made me feel repaid.

Very truly yours
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, July 29, /85.
Rec'd Aug. 24.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 19, 1885.

Sec'y N. G. Clark, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Clark,

You have doubtless received some time since a circular vote from this Mission, requesting the Prudential Committee to make a special appropriation of 18 liras Turkish in aid of Mr. Ivan Stoyanoff Popoff. Without awaiting the action of the Committee, I send you enclosed two letters which I think will bring you the desired amount without infringing upon regular contributions. If you please, you may post the letters, or if the Committee cannot favor this vote, you may destroy them. This Mr. Popoff is the same student in whom I have been interested for the two preceding years, and I have lost no confidence in him. If it is ever wise to make special educational grants, I believe here is a case in point. I very much hope this matter will go through all right, I feel rather bound to see him through; though I cannot afford to pay him 18 liras out of my own salary.

My heart is turning strongly towards self-supporting native evangelical work. I do believe it is possible to begin new fields on this sound principle. But we cannot at once cut off all aid. Having planted & cultivated the exotic of foreign aid, it must be very carefully accustomed to the atmosphere outside the hot-house. We are doing perhaps all we can with our present facilities to encourage students to earn their own education. In order to reach self-support in the Institute, I feel that we must have some industrial appliances with which all the students can manufacture something salable. There would be an outlay; but if it cost the Board for the first few years fully as much as the amounts paid as gratuities to students, the moral gain would be immense, and soon the "expense" would grow very small.

I believe we should have as many students as we could possibly accommodate, and our graduates would be independent men, accustomed to pay for what they get. I believe it would put a stop to all the troubles we have arising from what we sometimes style "Ingratitude", but ~~but~~ more correctly from the habit of looking to America for support.

A remark in one of your letters not long since, about the disproportion between the sum paid by the Board for the support of the Institute and the sum received ~~by~~ from the students, leads me to think you must be laboring under a misapprehension.

The new class, entered Sept. last, numbers 12 (−1 gone to war). Of these 11 boys, only 3 receive the gratuity of 10 liras, one, from the Austrian field, receives 2/3 this amount. The others all pay in full, (one being received tuition-and-rent-free.)

The 2nd class numbers 8, of whom 2 receive full aid (10 liras) & 2, ½ aid–

The third class numbers 2 (-1 soldier) This boy pays in full. The Fourth class numbers 3 (-1 Soldier). One of the two remaining receives roomrent & tuition; the other, nothing. The Fifth class numbers 3 (-2 soldiers.) The boy left receives no aid. The Sixth class, of 2, both beneficiaries. To sum up: total pupils, (including one special,

not receiving aid,)	31. (-5 soldiers)
Beneficiaries in full,	7.
" " part,	3.
Tuition & rent remitted,	2.
~~" " " the " , later,~~	~~1.~~

I will not vouch for the absolute accuracy of these figures; they are hastily gathered, but very approximately correct.

Total now aided, 12, amount 100 liras.

Total paying in full, 15. in full or in part, 26. amount about 188 liras.

If you compare this with previous years, having as many pupils, I think you will find a decided advance.

The cash paid out to beneficiaries, 100 liras, is very nearly balanced by the cash received for tuition and rent, viz., 96 liras. Of course, the salaries of teachers & running expenses of the school are paid by the Board. The School isn't a financial success, and in this respect is like all other Schools with which I am acquainted. But most Schools are endowed. Why can this not be endowed? Has any attempt ever been made to find an endowment? Would the Committee approve of any such attempt being made?

If this letter reaches you, you will know that on its date all here were well & trustful. The War is being vigorously waged near the Servian frontier. We hope Samokov will not be reached. A hospital is being set up here, in which Dr. Kingsbury is greatly interested. Our ladies are busily sewing hospital garments. We are hoping to do something in the way of relief work. Certainly the poor Bulgarians will need all the help and sympathy they can get. Our army is very poorly provided with necessaries, have not tents even against this wintry weather. They are brave soldiers. A division from Samokov was 'double-quicked' for 8 hours & then plunged into battle. It is said they were terribly cut up, & no wonder! But brave deeds will be recorded. The Servians have many cannon, which mow down the unprotected Bulgarians". Still at this writing it is officially said the Bulgarians are generally victorious. The Turks are said to have entered Servia. But all this is stale ~~to you~~ by the time it reaches you. If ~~Bibles~~ books can be forwarded we expect to distribute thousands of Testaments gratuitously in the army. We shall do very gladly all we can, at the same time keeping up the Schools. Mail & telegraph communications may be broken, but we hope to emerge all right from under the war-cloud.

I hope the sympathies of the American people are with this long suffering, ill-treated, betrayed, but liberty-loving people, ready to die in defence of their native land. The Bulgarians are certainly the Americans of So. Eastern Europe-

Yours, very faithfully
Wm. W. Sleeper-

Samokov, Nov. 19, 85.
Rec'd Dec. 7.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 25, 1885.

Sec'y N. G. Clark,

Dear Dr. Clark

Your letter of Oct. 28th addressed to Dr. Kingsbury so concerns this entire Station, that it seems proper for each of us, if so inclined, to send a few words by way of reply. I understand that Dr. Kingsbury has already returned an answer.

Two points in your letter call for careful consideration on our part. One is, about the supply of the Samokov pulpit.

It has been with great reluctance that a missionary has consented to act as pastor of this Church, and only because no Bulgarian could be found willing to undertake the work. The amount contributed by this Church yearly, you have doubtless noted in the annual statistics. If the entire sum could be given to the maintenance of preaching, with a little aid from the Board, a pastor could be engaged, who would not need to eke out his salary by teaching, or other work. But the brethren here urge — "Why need we spend our money in this way, taking away a preacher from some other field, when there are so many preachers already in Samokov, who with very little extra trouble can give us good preaching, while our contributions can send the Gospel to other localities?"

As this is the feeling here, we have urged them to elect either Mr. Tsanoff or Mr. Sitchaneff as their acting pastor, — but neither of these brethren is willing to undertake the work as an extra care. The result has been, — one of the missionaries has made himself responsible for the preaching & the leadership of other meetings. The actual work has been distributed pretty equally among five preachers. Very little pastoral work has been attempted.

It ought to be remembered

that fully two-thirds our Sunday congregations are made up of teachers and pupils in the Schools, — and a still greater proportion of attendance in the prayer-meetings. It has seemed not wholly without reason that this congregation of students should be ministered to by their ministerial teachers.

It is not the design of this Station to encourage a missionary-pastorate to continue beyond the point when it can wisely & successfully be transferred to Bulgarian hands.

As I have witnessed the lamentable state of things in Sophia, I have wished that a missionary-pastorate were practicable, as a temporary measure, even there.

The Second point is about the over-supply of missionaries at this point.

We have three distinct interests to foster at this Station, — we do not count the pastorate as one — namely the Schools, Touring, and Medical work.

No other station has more than one interest, for at Monastir the School is only for Girls, and has its own teachers. No one pretends to want a missionary teacher for Monastir.

This year we have assigned our force, with reference to these interests, as follows;

1. The Institute, Messrs. House, as Director and Sleeper.
2. The Field-Work (Seres to Pirdop, a very extensive field) Mr. Clarke.
3. The Medical Work, Dr. Kingsbury.

With less than four men, one of this interests will surely suffer. Without any personal reference, I may truly say, nobody in Samokov Station is addicted to idleness. We find our hands quite full, & if our strength and ability were greater, more work could be done, without disarranging the above plan.

If the proposal is to place five men in Samokov, than I must say, as I did once before, that I think it a mistake.

How much Messrs. Marsh — in Philipppopolis, and Thomson — in Constantinople, need help, you can judge from their letters. If there is no crying need for help in that direction, I should certainly feel greatly relieved to be designated elsewhere, as you suggest, as soon as the fifth missionary is sent to Samokov, for there is no need of more than four able-bodied men here, to do all the work proposed — fairly well.

With great respect,

Yours very truly,

Wm. W. Sleeper

Samokov, Nov. 25, '85.

Rec'd Dec. 21.

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Samokov, Bulgaria,
March 22, 1886.

Dear Dr. Clark; —

When a stationary engine is working well, it is very silent. May that not account for the silence of Samokov Station for the last few months? We have all been exceedingly busy, and have not felt like writing. Possibly each has imagined that some other member of the Station has kept you posted. If we have been negligent, I am very sorry.

I will say in general, that the Station has not suffered by reason of the late disturbances. Our Schools have not been interfered with, and our regular lines of work have all been carried on. In addition we have had the distribution of Scriptures among soldiers. Mr. Clark will doubtless report about that, as he has been in charge of the work. The little Station toy-press has been very busy in printing tracts suitable to the times, and now is printing Lesson Leaves for our Sunday Schools, besides "Miss. News," and more tracts. Two pupils, who lost so much time by soldiering that they couldn't go on in the course this year, are kept at work by this press, and will be ready for School again next year—

While speaking of the press, please let me suggest the need of a new machine. The little press—styled "Model," by a grim misnomer, broke in twain the other day, and the skill of Samokov smiths and carpenters has been overstrained to mend the thing. We still use it, but it is sadly insufficient for our needs. It can only print a page the size of one page of the tiny Miss. News from Bulgaria. This multiplies the impressions, & so the cost of printing. We need a treadle press, self-inking, to print a page as large as this page on which I write, with ink-rollers, chases, and other necessities to match. Is it not possible to find such a press ready for our use, somewhere in America: I expect the little thing we have now will utterly break down, beyond the hope of repair. Of course, this printing is something not originally in the plan for Samokov Station, but it has proved itself exceedingly useful, has cost us nothing — except a lawsuit against Mr. Clarke, which ought not to have been prosecuted; the fee of the lawyer who easily proved Mr. Clarke's innocence was something — and the work of superintendence, which ~~at f~~ falls chiefly upon me.

Our Annual Meeting comes at Philippopolis, April 21st. We are expecting some little difficulty in the work of supplying the field. Mr. Thomson must have relief, Mr. Marsh needs an assistant, and all the various departments of work must be well manned. I fear the pattern is larger than the cloth.

Personally, I am by no means

convinced that my work should be permanently in the School. I believe I could do a good work by making evangelistic tours with an assistant, and the little organ. This work would be very different from "touring" as it is generally done, meaning visits of encouragement to the friends scattered here and there, sowing seed as one has opportunity. My idea is to attempt something else — to awaken interest among the unconverted, to hold great meetings, and in short to endeavor to do for our entire field a work like that done by our American evangelists. Audiences can be gathered and held here by means of good, stirring music. And when the attention of the people is caught, I believe earnest, simple preaching will awaken deep attention, and we may depend on the Spirit to do the real work.

There are some capital Bulgarian preachers, finely adapted for this evangelical work. Especially, Pastor Boyajieff, now in Tatar-Pazarjik, and Mr. Sitchaneff, formerly teacher here, just now having a splendid work in Bansko and the Razlog generally.

If I must teach 9 months out of the 12, I cannot undertake such evangelistic tours — in extenso.

On another account, I do not like to feel myself permanently associated with the School; I have not yet had that experience in the field which alone can qualify a missionary to do best work in the School.

These remarks are suggested by the possible overturnings that will be made at Annual Meeting, in order to supply the needs above mentioned.

On many accounts, it seems best to have Mr. House transferred to Const., but I feel very sure that the School and this Station generally would suffer very greatly by such a step. I believe Mr. House is today precisely in his place, — the head of the School, and his hand on the rudder of the Station ship in regard to finances, and other matters. I do not believe any other missionary now in this field can fill the place Mr. House is ~~now most~~ so excellently filling. If Mr. Clark had firm health, we should feel more secure of our position if Mr. House ~~to~~ were transferred, but it would not be right to devolve upon Mr. Clarke any greater responsibility than he has now, in caring for the interests of native agency and colportage, connected with this Station. This work does not confine him to any routine, allows him to travel as much as he wishes, or he can direct the work from here. — The Dr. has all he can possibly attend to in the line of strictly medical work. I have much more than I can do well, in assuming the entire department of Exegesis in the School, and Church History, with four classes in vocal and instrumental music per week, and various other cares. I certainly could not add to this the responsibilities which now belong to Mr.

House, as has been suggested here; and the question is, — who can come and to successfully assume these responsibilities?

This is one topic which will doubtless employ some of our thought at Annual Meeting.

It is painful to report that matters are not at all encouraging in Sophia. There are two distinct parties in the Church; and all our efforts to bring about a reconciliation are in vain. Mr. House and I have both tried, at different times, to harmonize the brethren. What the end will be, I do not know; and I dare not say which party, or what man, is most at fault. I do not know. It is a very tangled skein. I think it should be cut at once, & not unravelled: that the past should all be forgotten and forgiven, and a fresh start made. But this cannot be done just now. Perhaps the Evangel. Society will be able to improve matters at its coming meeting. also in Philippopolis, directly after our meeting.

We have lost one preacher, Mr. Palamidoff: he has become Baptist, of the exclusive order, and has taken his family to Rustschuk, where he can find sympathy, if not support. We are very sorry, for he was earnest and attractive, though having a very fiery temper to control. Baptist views do not gain much ground among our friends. We endeavor to be most tolerant, and kind.

— My family is pretty well, but will be improved by the trip to Annual Meeting. We have now two children, the youngest, a fine little girl, about four mos. old. A very bright little Christian girl from Sophia is also in our family, helping care for the children, and studying English and music. ~~frivo~~

— If at the end of our fifth year here, we should suggest a short vacation, of a single season, instead of a year's furlough much later, I wonder what would be the Boston opinion?

Very faithfully yours, Wm. W. Sleeper

Samokov, Mar. 22, '86
Rec'd Apr. 12.

332.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
May 13, 1886.

Dear Dr. Clark,

Yours of Apr. 16, speaking of the $110 from Chelsea for a printing-press, is at hand. Our little press is expected to break down any moment. We have a lot of printing to do, as the Mission has voted a sum to this Station to be expended in printing Tracts, as Mr. Thomson is too short-handed to undertake more at present than the running of the periodicals.

I have a catalogue of "Curtis & Mitchell" presses, #15 Federal St. Boston. If their presses are reliable, their "Eighth medium Columbian Rotary Press", 8+12 inside chase, $150, would just fill our need. Would it not be wise to get the opinion of Mr. Todd, or some other practical printer? We need a good press of that capacity, capable of doing neat, rapid work. We want sent out with the press all the tools needed for its adjustment and working: & I will enclose a list, as well as I can make it out from this distance.

Mr. Clarke has received a hint from Dea. Merrill of the Union Ch., Boston, that leads us to think very possibly he may be buying us such a press. Before using the Chelsea money, would it not be well to ascertain ~~this?~~ whether he is going to do this or not? It is delicate for us to write and ask him, point-blank. We know he has inquired the cost, &c., of such a press. You doubtless have skilful means of finding out such things! I would suggest that if he intends sending us a press speedily, the Chelsea money be credited to Mr. Clarke or myself, for use in replenishing our stock of type from Vienna.

I have also received the promise of a little hand press from Worcester which I shall send for to tide over the probable interval between the collapse of our present one and the arrival of the better one from Boston. But it will not be sufficient for our wants,

— only as a reserve in case of accident, or extra need. I write this that if you hear of the arrival at the Rooms of a hand press from Worcester, you may not suppose that our wants in this direction are fully met. — If Mr. Merrill doesn't "bite," and sufficient funds reach you, please ship me a press as soon as possible.

I would not ask the Prud. Com. for a special appropriation for this purpose, but if such a press comes along naturally, we can make it of great use in the prompt publication of much needed tracts for the times, & other valuable matter.

The work is done by some of our students. Mr. House will doubtless superintend the editorial part of the work.

— I have rec'd contributions from Dalton, Mass., & W. B. Mosman, N. Y., in aid of Popoff — the student I am interested in. Before I received permission to solicit these sums, the Prud. Com. had already made the grant as a special. I shall therefore return them to the treasury of the Board; they will quite cover the special grant.

The Sophia Church has formally called Mr. Tsaneff to its pastorate. He will probably go. We shall feel his loss from the School, but the Sophia need seemed greater. We have two capital young teachers, graduated last year, & if necessary Mr. Popoff, before-mentioned, can be added to our corps of teachers.

The Locke family are here, making preparations for removal to Philippopolis. They are our guests; you may know that we now occupy their old home. If this house should be needed for the Girls' School, we stand ready to vacate, of course. I think it is the most desirable residence on the grounds. We expect to complete the ~~no~~ street wall & fence, & hope to secure a good frontage to the Chapel property in lieu of a strip cut off this property by said wall. We are all quite well & enjoying the Spring weather, now just set in.

Very faithfully yours, Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, May 13, 1886,
Rec'd June 2.

Printing Press, &c. wanted by Samokov,

1 Curtis & Mitchell "Eighth Medium Columbian Rotary Press," to print a form 8×12 inches. If this press not recommended, then a good one of some make, of same capacity.

4 chases, to fit the press.

3 rollers. " "

1 roller-mould, for casting rollers.

2 wrenches, to fit the press.

10 lbs. best roller composition.

20 Webb's Mechanical quoins, with wrench for do.

12 steel gauge pins.

1 lead-cutter ($2.00)

20 yards cherry furniture, straight, various thicknesses.

1 composing stick.

4 tweezers.

2 imposing stones, not smaller than 9×12 inches.

5 lbs. Extra news black ink.

W. W. Sleeper.

Samokov. May 13, 1886.

Samokov, May 13, 1886,

Rec'd June 2.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
June 18, 1886.

Dear Dr. Clark: —

At their business meeting last Wednesday, the Samokov Church chose me to be their Acting Pastor. I answered that I could not accept the position at present, — before conferring with you, and being allowed by the Station to spend a portion of my time in the pastoral work.

I am aware of the repeated objections that have been made from the Rooms, to a missionary's acting as pastor of a native Church.

The circumstances here are different from what they have been for several years. Mr. Tsaneff has accepted his call to the Sophia pastorate; Mr. Sitchaneff is in Bansko, where he expects to remain as acting-pastor, if not actually installed. There is therefore no Bulgarian ~~one~~

who can assume the duties of pastor, unless some one comes here specially for this work, to the detriment of the work in other places. The whole time of a man cannot be engaged by this Church without a considerable extra grant by the Board - Is the Prud. Com. willing to make such a grant for the ~~Sophia~~ Samokov Church?

In the circumstances it seems to all of us advisable for one of us missionaries to take the helm again, until circumstances allow the installation of a Bulgarian pastor, - or, rather, until some Bulgarian, qualified for the position, can be found to take it. It is certainly extremely undesirable for affairs to go on as they have been running for the past few months.

I am already assisting the deacons to supply the pulpit, and see that the week-day, & other meetings are provided with leaders. This is certainly not pastoral work. I should like to undertake, for a time, the charge of the Church. I believe it would be an excellent thing for me. I do not feel fully satisfied to be a teacher, and only a teacher (—and a financial agent.) Teaching is very important, and I enjoy it; at the same time, I wish I could have more to do with the direct work of evangelizing. I do not forget my opportunities to evangelize in both the Schools — I endeavor to improve them. It is true that I have freedom to evangelize in the city, & to make an occasional tour, but I cannot fill my time with teaching, & other Station duties, and still have time for city-missionary work, & touring. If permission is given me to do what I can in this Church, I trust the Station will find it possible for me to give a certain amount of time to Church work. Especially as two classes will be missing next year from our School, owing to the Revolution.

Whether I can benefit others or not by pastoral work, I do not know. My instincts point plainly to the pastoral, rather than any other, Office, and I should be glad to try my strength, partially, in this direction.

It has seemed best all around for Mr. Clarke to take charge of Touring, + for Mr. House to be the head of the School. As I have no especially responsible position, it has ~~bee~~ seemed best to the other brethren for me to ~~take~~ Care for the Church.

— A printing-press has reached Philippopolis, designed for our little office, and is a gift from Miss Stone's Chelsea friends. It has not been examined yet; but if it should prove satisfactory, it would be desirable to use whatever other funds have been gathered for the needs of this Office, in the purchase of more type, & other material. If you have not yet secured a press, in response to my letter of May 13, please delay a little until I can inform you what good things our Chelsea friends have sent us.

Very fraternally &
respectfully yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper

Samokov, June 18, 1886,

Rec'd July 7. 5

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Samokov, June 30, 1886

Dear Dr. Clark;

Yesterday a printing-press reached us, was set up, found in good order, & the enclosed struck off. The press is entirely satisfactory. Nobody yet knows who is the donor — not even Miss Stone herself. I presume the money in your hands from Chelsea, when you wrote me two months ago, ~~will be~~ were was from the donors of this press, & will be credited to Miss Stone, to whom, I notice, all the expenses of the press, including cost in Boston, have been charged by Mr. Peet.

There are a few things, however, which I want from America, to make the Office profitable. I enclose a list. If funds are in hand for these things, I wish they could be forwarded to me by next shipment.

We must, absolutely & immediately, have additional type. This must be purchased in ~~America~~ Vienna, as the American standard height of type is lower than the European, & ~~can~~ could not be used with what we have already. Is not some friend ready to make us a special donation of money, to be used in purchase of material? $150 would "set us up." I will not beg for this, but thinking you may have received some donations, in reply to hints in Mr. Clarke's little leaflet-paper, I suggest our needs.

The new press will enable us to print seasonable tracts, lesson-leaves, & all such indispensable mission-publications, cheaply & satisfactorily. Thus the work that has come to a stand-still in Const-ple, for want of help, can be carried on here, as per suggestion of the Annual Meeting. Perhaps the A. T. S. or London T. S. would make us a little grant for printing materials.

I am going to order the necessary type immediately, &

trust in Providence for the cash. At all events, $150 out of pocket wouldn't quite ruin us.

I do not know whether Mr. House has explained to you the new plan of aiding beneficiaries & perhaps other students, to help themselves. We are all heartily sick of the "subsidizing" principle, as Bro. Carpenter styles it, & educating helpers. We shall now start 3 or 4 separate departments of work for ~~the~~ all students who wish to work (beneficiaries must work), paying them 1 piastre per hour, furnishing 3 hours' work every working day, & crediting all sums earned on the School & board bills. In this way they will earn ½ their regular ~~school fees~~ expenses, & more if they work vacations. All the students (boarders) unanimously & enthusiastically support the plan. It is a new ~~e~~ era for our educational work. One department is, of course Printing. The Office will keep 6 or more boys employed. These boys have all _taught themselves_ how to set type, &c., with a single exception. Thus, whatever aid is given to our Press, confers a _quadruple_ benefit;

1st To the people, in furnishing cheap religious literature,

2nd To the students employed,

3rd To the School, increasing its usefulness & influence,

4th To the Board, decreasing the am't of aid needed.

Until the departments of work are equipped & in good working order, it may not be possible to diminish the grants in aid, but that is one chief end aimed at in our plans, & will soon be reached.

Very faithfully yours,

Wm W Sleeper

Samokov, June 30, '86.

Revised List of Printer's Material wanted from America.

From Golding & Co., 183 Fort-Hill Sq., Boston, the makers of our new Press

	Catalogue Price
1 Planer. 3×6 inches,	$ 0.25
1 Iron Shooting stick, enameled,	.25
~~1 hickory m~~	
2 steel tweezers,	.40
1 doz gage buttons,	.36
2 job composing sticks, 6-inch, at .75 =	1.50
1 job galley, full-lined, 8×12 in.,	2.25
1 galley-lock, (set of quoins with end clamp)	.40
1 doz. double screw quoins, with wrench	2.10
10 lbs. Golding & Co's medium roller composition, at .30 =	3.00
1, six-inch monkey wrench. ~~1 six-inch monkey wre~~	.60
2 marble imposing slabs, about 10×14 in.	2.00 ?
10 yards cherry furniture, straight, ranging from 1 to "8 line",	.50 ?
	$ 13.61

Contingents: — (Very desirable, but not indispensable.)

1 Pearl Ink Fountain, of Golding & Co., as above.
1 set Marshall's Feed Gages, " " " "
10 lbs. good black jobbing ink.
1 Paper Cutting Machine -

Samokov. July 1. 1886.

W W Sleeper

W. W. Shuper
June 30. 1886
Rec'd July 28. 1886

Declined
by
Chelsea

no provision in
decree

(There may be Baptists in Bucarest.) I learned that the Government is very liberal, & that missionaries would meet with no opposition worse than indifferentism. There is a little Lutheran School & service in Severin, but only for the resident Lutherans (German). No mission work is attempted for this ancient people, the descendants of the Roman colonists of ancient Dacia. The national church is the Greek, like the Bulgarian. What Board of Missions will preach the Gospel to the Roumanians? While there, I had strong thoughts of urging you to examine the field, & if you found it unoccupied, to send some one there. One of our good preachers Mr. Litsa, is a native Wallachian.

With best salutations, Yours as ever,

Wm. W. Sleeper

Vienna, Austria,
Aug. 19, 1886.

Dear Dr. Clark; —

In obedience to the urgent advice of my wife, Dr. Kingsbury and the Station, I have come here to run away for a little from mission life. Tomorrow I return. Have been here 10 days. I was getting into the nervous-missionary state, — a very undesirable state to be in, & one in which most of us are in, all the time. I am carrying out my own idea of taking brief vacations in order to avoid the necessity of breaking down, & taking very long vacations. It was impossible for Mrs Sleeper to accompany me, on account of the little ones. I shall be back in abundant time for the work at the opening of the School-year. It was an opportune time for slipping away. If I could have had my family with me, the vacation would have been altogether delightful; as it is, I have had a complete change and rest from the

Station routine which is so wearing upon one of my temperament, and hope to be able to work right along through the school year without having the little sick turn near the close which I have had regularly before—

I do not propose to make any charge for my expenses. I have practiced pretty rigid economy, but that does no harm.

On my journey here I spent a Sabbath in Turn Severin ("Tower of Severin") in Roumania. I have not been able to learn that any missionary work is being done in Roumania.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Oct. 25, 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Sec'y. &c.

Dear Dr. Clarke;

A few encouraging words about our work:— Yesterday I had the pleasure of preaching to an audience of 200, the largest I have yet seen gathered in Samokov at a preaching service. I should judge that nearly all the students of the Orthodox Theological School in this city were present. Many of them come regularly, listen with great respect and attention, and often stay to the Sunday School. It is certainly novel, & very encouraging, for the young priesthood of the corrupt Church to attend en masse the evangelical services of our Missions. The other day I directly asked one of these students why so many of his fellow-students attended our preaching, and he affirmed that their motive was, to learn how preaching is done. Preaching is highly commended — in theory — in their Seminary; but alas! they have to come over to the Protestant service to find any examples of the art.

Among these students are some very striking & highly intelligent faces. I cannot understand how these young men can sit under our plain, simple preaching without catching the spirit of our work. We have no opposition whatever from this neighboring school, or, indeed, from any source.

A little, unpretentious "Society of Christian Endeavor" has been introduced into our training school. Some 20 boys are members, and every Sunday they go out into the city, in bands. — some to hold neighborhood prayer-meetings, some to sing the Gospel, some to gather children into classes, some for chance conversation & tract distribution. I do not think the slightest opposition is presented to these young laborers.

"Another good sign is the increased interest in the prayer-meeting. Many are now ready to take prompt part in all our meetings, and for several weeks I have scarcely noticed a "hitch" or "drag" in the flow of religious exercises.

"At our last "Brother's Meeting", many interested students were present who are not yet members of the Church, but hope to be. Anticipating a larger number than could be accommodated in our home, I had this meeting in the Chapel, ~~About~~ ~~5~~ where we must hereafter hold them, grouping our stiff, awkward benches into as attractive a circle as possible, and trying to forget the dark, empty spaces around us. We do need a neat cosy room for prayer-meetings: but we do not like to beg for this purpose. We will do the best we can with our present arrangements a while longer.

Eight persons have been examined in anticipation of the November Communion Service. It is encouraging to see the disciples of Christ willing to take the stand of public Confession. There are ~~many~~ others who are seriously contemplating this step.

We are hoping soon to secure a room in the business part of the city where we can have books & papers, music, pictures & other attractions, with frequent preaching & praise services, & somebody always on hand to welcome & interest all who may drop in.

"The Church has just printed an invitation to attend our meetings in the form of a little tract, entitled "Important Questions for Everybody." The author is our energetic worker in Sophia, Bro. Tsaneff. He ~~pro~~ had 2000 printed for distribution in Sophia, but as he failed to "copyright," we have stolen his thunder. He will be glad, however, to hear the distant echos of his own guns.

The School is going on briskly & successfully: & our many young apprentices are becoming so expert with the composing-stick and the hammer that we have no little difficulty in keeping them all profitably employed. I believe this "New Departure" of ours will prove a great blessing to the school & to the students, & is well worth the strength & anxiety it costs".

I hope the $150 you asked for in September "Herald" is speedily forthcoming. Type, paper, blank cards, &c. have been bought, & must be paid for.

We are in pressing need of a paper-cutter to trim our pamphlets & make them presentable—

~~The "Zornitsas" are still suppressed, and our little press is the only~~

You will think my wants are insatiable. Perhaps they ought to be! — What I want now is a small font of music-type. There is a demand for the new songs I constantly teach the students. We are forced to hektograph the notes. The ungainly sheets are sticky, dingy things, very hard to manufacture, & very unsatisfactory when made. The hymns we print very cheaply on little slips like the one enclosed. I sell them at rate of 10 for 1 piastre, & clear expenses besides paying a good profit to the printing-office. Now if we could only print the notes with the hymns, I believe I could easily dispose of 200–400 copies of every hymn. There is a growing demand for good, new music, & a taste for the truly good is *being* rapidly developed. I am constantly surprised at the musical intelligence of my many pupils. I want to cultivate this branch of my work; *it will pay* — it has already paid many fold.

The Monthly Zornitsa (now suppressed) publishes a new hymn, with notes, ~~at~~ with every issue; but the *Monthly* is comparatively expensive, is not *generally* circulated, & *cannot* be made to meet my needs. A fount of music type would greatly facilitate my work.

With this object in view, I have written the enclosed letter to Mr. Selden, an old college & seminary friend of mine. I do not care to solicit aid without your approval; the method I take, I believe is the one the Committee are in favor of. If you please, glance over my letter to Mr. Selden; if you approve the idea of securing the type in this way, please have the letter mailed; if not, please notify me, ~~that I may~~ and destroy the letter. I shall not persist in the matter, of course, only it seems to me a good way in which I can greatly increase the power & beauty of our evangelical work.

As this matter concerns our little printing-office & myself, and is not a mission matter, I have not brought it before the mission, but ~~have~~ write directly to you as I have done heretofore with reference to printing affairs.

Very ~~truly~~ yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Rev. [illegible] Sleeper.
Samokov, Oct. 25, '86.
Rec'd Nov. 15.
ans. [illegible] 16, [illegible]

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 2. 1887.

Dear Dr. Clark,

We are all greatly gratified to learn that your health is restored, and that you are again at the helm.

I write as Station Secretary to call your attention to the fact that we have received no notice from Boston that the customary grant has been made for this current year to the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. By a strange oversight, we neglected to insert the item in our annual estimat for 1887, made at our last annual meeting. As soon as the mistake was noticed, the Mission hastened to request the Prudential Committee by circular vote, to make a special grant of — if I remember — one hundred and thirty pounds Turkish. The work in Sophia must be instantly suspended, we think, if this grant cannot be made. As Mr. Marsh says, we shall feel pained and chagrined to have the Society's work stopped through a mere oversight of the Mission. The Station directed me to write to Boston, to call the Treasurer's attention to the matter. It seems more natural for me to refer the case to you, as you will best know the state of affairs. I feel strongly that something must be done immediately.

We are also desirous at this Station to have you and the Committee approve and endorse the Industrial

Department of our Training School. It is our reply to the various appeals and suggestions received from Boston in regard to self-support. If our plans are carried out, we shall soon have a self-supporting school, as far as support of students is concerned. The Printing Department was able from the start to pay the wages determined on, without a para of assistance from the Board. The Cabinet Shop, with its multitude of raw apprentices and lack of accommodations of various kinds, did not get so good a start, but a little encouragement will set it up all right. The experiment this year, made under many heavy discouragements, and with scarcely an encouraging word from any source, proves that the enterprise will soon become a fine success, provided it is allowed to go on. Dr. House has all the statistical arguments in hand, and you will soon hear from him, if you have not already. The effect upon the students has been excellent. They are quick to respond to our views of self-help, if only we can furnish the work.

I believe the Publication Department of our Mission should now be withdrawn from the power of the Turkish Censor, and brought into the interior; ~~at least, the publication of periodicals and tracts. The book-work can perhaps be better~~ Our School can furnish an active and efficient corps of compositors and press-men. Let the editors be located here, and the success of Industrial Department & Publication Department will be assured together.

Rec'd Feb. 23.

Very truly yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 16, 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Secretary,
Dear Dr. Clark;

I enclose a Station Vote relative to the return of Dr. Kingsbury -

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong conviction that Dr. Kingsbury's work and influence here are of the right sort, and have been productive of much good - The Doctor has had to struggle against many untoward circumstances, and has had reason to feel discouraged more than once - yet he has made a large place for himself in a community as jealous and narrow-minded as this surrounding us. He is always besieged with people clamorous for treatment, coming from many villages & distant places, as well as from this city — just so long, that is, as he is willing to practice gratuitously. When he has firmly shut the door against all who come without the cash, he has not had so many applicants. This is not at all strange to one who knows the circumstances and habits of the people. They are not accustomed to hiring physicians and buying medicines. Many lives are given away, rather than incur expense for medical treatment. I do not believe Dr. Kingsbury's experience in this respect differs materially from that of Bulgarian doctors. In order to reach the masses, the medical work here must be largely gratuitous.

But on the other hand, Dr. K. always ~~expects~~ demand pay when he thinks there is the slightest possibility of receiving any. Of course, in doctoring people comparatively well-off, pay is demanded and received. As he cannot dispense medicines, his patients are obliged to buy of the druggist, or go without (which they often prefer to do).

As to Dr. Kingsbury's influence as a missionary, I believe it is great. He always makes it a chief end of his medical visits to administer to the spiritual needs of his patients. I have accompanied him sometimes in his round of city calls, and seen him open the Bible and read to patients who listened with great attention — not only the sick one, but the whole family. It strikes me that the Doctor succeeded in doing a good deal more direct evangelical work in this city than any of the rest of us — indeed, more than all the rest put together. Often those whom he has helped call on him and ask many questions on the subject of religion.

For my part, I think we are very weak here just now as an evangelical agency in this city. The rest of us are crowded with Station and School work. Those who wish are free to come to our services and get what they can, but we are unable to go and "compel them to come in." We need the Doctor.

He is also greatly needed by the Missionary families and the Schools. Samokov is to-day without a competent doctor, and without a nurse. The authorized physician is a Greek in whom nobody has any confidence. From experience we have had, we should not dream of calling him to our assistance. The Schools & this Station have been planted in a howling wilderness, as regards civilization & its various amenities, and I do not know where a live Physician can be more useful than here.

I send you a letter just received from our brother Litchaneff, in Bansko. I think you will be much interested in his fine work. Dr. House & Miss Stone started yesterday for Bansko. Very truly yours. Wm W Sleeper.

W. Sleeper
Samokov, Feb. 16, '87.
Rec'd Mar. 14.
[illegible]

Samokov, Bulgaria,
March 21, 1887.

Dear Dr. Clarke;

I wish to lay before you some personal matters which are weighing very heavily upon Mrs. Sleeper and myself.

For about three years I have been feeling more and more deeply that my life-work ought not to be in the School. I have never designed to be a teacher permanently. My tastes and—as I believe—my gifts, such as they are, lie in the direction of pastoral work. When I accepted appointment by the Prud. Com., I understood of course that I was sent especially to this School. But I did not understand how very little time, strength and opportunity could be reserved for direct evangelical work. As soon as I fairly entered into the school-work, I began to feel that I had made a mistake,—or rather that to continue for many years in just this line of work would be a mistake. I have my father's temperament. I am not blue, not easily discouraged, by nature, but the confinement to a regular round of duties is very wearing. My father could not have been a teacher. Our temperament demands a great deal of change. Now I had supposed that a missionary's life was full of change — going and coming, ebb and flow. At first I dreaded touring, through fear lest I should prove unequal to emergencies; but that feeling gradually wore off, as I acquired the ability to make tours. I soon became exceedingly tired of the subjects I was teaching (excepting music), and as the months and years passed, the effects of the routine work began to be evident in my nerves. For several years Mrs. Sleeper used all her influence to keep me firm in my determination to hang on to this precise work. At the last Annual Meeting I plainly told the brethren that I could not be content to remain in the School, without a change; I urged them to allow me at least a year in the field, if they felt convinced that my ultimate work was in the School, in order that I might familiarize myself with the condition and needs of the field. My argument, in many conversations of a year ago, was that in order to train up successful laborers for our field, I myself must acquire personal knowledge of the field. I was also very anxious to try evangelistic tours with my organ, my wish being not to make flying trips, stopping a day here and a few hours there, but spending a week or weeks in central & populous places, especially where our workers are posted. But I have never been able to attract special attention to my plans.

Last Summer, you will remember, I wrote you, urging your consent to my taking the acting-pastorate of the Samokov Church. I felt that such a work was absolutely necessary to my happiness and preservation in this field. I expected to drop half of my School duties, and devote half my time to as earnest city-mission work in this place as I could do. The Station not objecting, I went to work with great zeal. Mrs. Sleeper's prudence had secured me a good, refreshing rest during the Summer, in my Vienna trip, and I began the Fall campaign with strengthened nerves and fresh determination to hold on and succeed. But I soon found that instead of having fewer School duties, I had more than ever. My time and strength were so completely consumed by studies — some of them new, accounts, and other School and Station cares that my Church-work had to be almost wholly neglected. I became just what I feared to become — a committee of one on the supply of the pulpit. The new Society of Christian Endeavor I had just started was quietly dropped, plans for opening a reading- and prayer-room in the market were abandoned, — the meetings grew cold, and members out of sorts. — I had absolutely no time for visiting, and in short my fine plans for doing pastoral work fell through altogether.

I do not blame anybody at all for this state of things; certainly I do not attribute it to the new Industrial Department, because for about two years previously I had been conducting the Printing Office, and spending quite as much if not more time in it than during the present year. The fact is, that as long as I am in Samokov, I must be a teacher, and cannot expect to do anything else, save caring for my share of the odds and ends of Station work.

Mrs. Sleeper has this year become fully convinced that I must not remain longer in School-work. She was a long time making up her mind, and now she is very sure that the path of duty turns aside from the School at the milestone just ahead of us.

Last week Mr. Marsh has been here, and the Trustees have had this matter fully laid before them. My proposition was, to be in Samokov during a part of September, to settle up the School accounts, start the Printing Department, which is in fact already running with no oversight on my part except the accounts; then to take the field with my organ until Jan. 1st.

At that time I would return and teach all I could through the winter term, touring again through the Spring term. The Trustees tried earnestly — and very kindly and brotherly — to induce us to give up all thought of such a change. Dr. House especially urged that my absence from the School would be a great damage to it. I cannot agree to this view; next year there can be only 5 classes, and quite possibly only 4. I feel sure I can give a pretty satisfactory course in the branches I customarily teach, during the winter term. His burdens need not be increased by the plan I urge. — However, after full discussion, the entire matter was left without vote for the Annual Meeting, which we have invited here for the 14th of next month, to decide.

This is in general a sketch of the situation I am in. Both Mrs. Sleeper and myself believe that my real strength, as well as inclination, lies in a line of work more akin to pastoral work.

I am absolutely positive that for me to exchange places with Mr. Clarke would be a fatal step. He is admirable in the field, a man of ripe judgment and true sympathy; he would certainly break down in the School, and that very quickly, while I am wholly unfit to manage the field-work belonging to this Station. I would not think of such a thing. And of course I have never dreamed of an exchange with Mr. Marsh. Such adjustments would be madness. But the plan I propose would really help both these brethren (if it succeeds as I hope it would), encourage the native brethren, draw new hearers, give me the change & experience I need, and enable me to see whether or not I can succeed in this field. I have been urged by native friends to visit their places with the organ. So far I have had very little opportunity to test this method of work, but every attempt has succeeded remarkably well.

I am sorry to demand so much time, but I must let you know something of the peculiar circumstances we are just now in.

In the first place, we expect an addition to our family early in August. There is no doctor whom we could summon, & not even a mid-wife in the city who has any skill in the matter. We should have lost our Jamie had it not been for Dr. Kingsbury. It seems to us here highly improbable that Dr. Kingsbury will be back as soon as Aug. 1, even if the political horizon should clear up. Certainly we would on no account urge his returning a moment sooner on our account. We expect then to be obliged to seek an asylum elsewhere during the summer. Where? It would never do to expose Mrs. Sleeper to the malarial heats of Philippopolis at that season. To go elsewhere will involve much expense, and fresh anxieties for my wife. We have thought of Constantinople, though it is hot there.

In the second place, we shall have no home after July next. The house we are occupying then goes into the hands of the lady teachers. I cannot think, after so much discussion and two distinct votes on the question, of proposing to throw this arrangement overboard. It is best to vacate the house as agreed upon, and we shall do it; but I really do not know where we shall find a fairly comfortable domicile in such a city as Samokov. The aristocratic houses are too large and dear, the common houses too low, damp, and small. It will be very surprising if we succeed in finding a suitable house empty. I feel that my family ought to have as comfortable a home as possible, considering how absolutely they are tied down to it. ~~This matter troubles us.~~

In the third place, the difficulty of securing suitable help for Mrs. Sleeper after this summer is one that can hardly be understood by anybody not here on the ground. Just now we have a pretty competent woman to aid in the domestic department, but she expects to leave us in a few months. Trained domestics are quite unknown. — Mrs. Sleeper wonders how she can manage a raw village girl with three little children to care for besides?

But my greatest anxiety is the health of my wife. She is in great need of an immediate change. She is a good deal run down, pretty weak and nervous, and needs to get away from Samokov and get thoroughly toned up before her period of trial comes on. — It happens that I am the delegate this year to the Annual Meeting of the Western Turkey Mission. The meeting will come in the middle of May. I could take my wife & children there — I certainly shall if I go — but that will not give the change and rest required, and we must almost immediately after returning start out again to find a retreat somewhere for the coming little one. I fear the trip to Constantinople in the Spring would rather increase her care and weakness than remove them.

If it is right for me to think for my family, and place their claims uppermost for a time (I have heretofore refused to do this, but placed the School above everything else), then my judgment is that the wisest thing would be to propose a vacation, beginning June 1 next, and closing as soon as my family are able to return. For myself I certainly do not want this, although I think I should definitely settle the question of my life-work upon looking at the work here from a distance, and comparing it with other forms of work which certainly seem now much better adapted to our capacity. ~~look attractive now~~, ~~in~~ I had supposed I should never propose revisiting America, until it might be necessary to resign. But now we agree that the very best thing for the health of my family and for the settlement of the many difficulties that hedge us about would be, an absence of a few months from this field. If an absence of the length indicated is the best course, it would certainly be most economical, and of course incomparably more advantageous for my wife, to go immediately to our Worcester home. I presume such a step would provoke no end of hostile criticism, — but I am in a very tight place, and the only clear opening lies certainly in that direction. I know how difficult it is to get consent from the Prudential Committee for a vacation after so short a term of service. I know the money question needs to be considered. But I feel so strongly the advantages of such a course to the health of my family, and for the decision of our ever-more-troublesome problem, that I would be willing to take the trip at my own expense, and without salary, if the Committee should think it unwise to assist me.

I am exceedingly sorry that I have not been able to adapt myself to the circumstances and requirements of the work to which you have sent me. I have honestly and very earnestly tried to content myself with teaching, - to acquire and maintain a live enthusiasm for this work, and to persuade myself that my calling lies in just this direction. We cannot really doubt but that our coming here was providential. We certainly tried to hear God's call. Neither can we doubt that God has not forgotten us. Our prayer has been constantly for his guidance. It is a matter of simple duty with us: we feel that we ought to be in the place for which God has designed us and fitted us. It certainly seems to us that some other field, or other branch of work, than that of teaching, is the one ultimately designed to draw out our best efforts in the common cause which we all love. We are fully open to conviction as to the path of duty. We have listened with deep feeling to all our brethren here have said. I believe I am personally willing to sacrifice what I think to be my especial life-work, to the good of this School, if that is wise and best. I believe there are teachers fitted in God's providence for teaching, and preachers fitted for preaching, and so on. I do not for a moment believe that if I step out of the School, the Lord will let an important educational work suffer. It is doubtless a somewhat troublesome matter to arrange, but I am sure it can be done.

I also believe that a married man should ~~at~~ consider his field from his wife's standpoint — at least half the time. Mrs. Sleeper has felt from the very first that she could do nothing here except care for her home. But she has a great love and decided taste and capability for many forms of evangelical work. I believe we shall not be in our right field until both of us can find plenty of congenial spiritual work. This year my wife has had quite a little literary work which has interested her much more than anything heretofore in our missionary life, but she could do ~~more and~~ better work, she believes, even in America, for Bulgarian children's literature, than in Samokov.

I have written very fully, and I trust clearly, that you may understand our feelings. I have disliked adding a single new burden to the great load you are called upon to carry, but this matter cannot be kept hidden. I beg your candid advice. You are in a position to look at the question on all sides - I shall expect light through your answer.

Doubtless the Mission will take action on my proposition. If my taking my family to America is approved by the Mission, I shall telegraph for the consent of the Committee, as we shall need to begin our preparations very immediately after the meeting. I have laid the matter so fully before you that I believe the Committee will be able to understand the case, and to form a judgment at once, if it should be necessary to use the cable.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Rev W. W. Sleeper
Sam[illegible]ov, March 24th 89

Samókov, Bulgaria,
April 29, 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Secretary, &c.

Dear Dr. Clark;

I want to thank you very sincerely for your kind thoughtfulness in sending the cablegram last week. The Mission was in session in Annual Meeting, and had just voted to unite with me in asking the Prudential Committee for leave of absence to visit the United States. It was a great relief to know immediately that the Committee gave its consent. After a great deal of thought and conference, it seemed clear to me that I should ask for a vacation. I have explained to you pretty fully my reasons, and am very thankful to have your concurrence. I am anxious to have a talk with you about the situation, and to know what I can look forward to in the future. We shall need to start about the first of ~~July~~ June. We expect to go overland. I hope to visit Prague en route. It is possible that we may be fellow-voyageurs with Dr. Farnsworth and family.

I am very sorry to leave my work here so abruptly; however, I am taking extra hours‡ of teaching while I remain, and shall be able to finish all my studies, and examine my classes, before leaving. Dr. House takes my place as delegate to the Western Turkey Mission-Meeting, starting in a week or two with Mrs. House, and returning at the time of our own departure.

Our going is quite a blow to Dr. House. I am exceedingly sorry, though I have the greatest confidence that he will be fully sustained in the splendid work he is carrying forward. — The various steps by which we have been led to the present decision, and by which our clouded pathway has gradually opened before us, seem purely Providential. I am greatly encouraged to hope that the Lord has in store for us a great and important work. If so, may we be found ready to undertake it, wherever it may prove to be!

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Worcester, June 22 -

Dear Dr. Clark;

We reached New York, safe and sound, ~~Saturday~~ night, per "Etruria". I shall hope to visit the Missionary Rooms within a few weeks, and make a full report to you. Accept our hearty salutations, and our love -

Faithfully yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper -

22 Richards St.
Worcester, Mass.

Rev. W. W. Sleeper,

Worcester, July 8, 1887.

Rec'd July 9.

ackd do. a.

✓

Worcester, July 8,
22 Richards St.

Dear Dr. Clark;

I will go to Boston Wednesday the 13th # if I can see you then. If you cannot see me at that time, please let me know the earliest following day when you can.

Very truly yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Thanks for cordial letter of greeting.

suggested one week later 20th
a.

343

and see if something better may not come out of Webster than heretofore.

Is there any special reason for my being at the Board Meeting in Springfield?

"William Allen Sleeper" was born ~~July~~ Aug. 8, and is a fine little fellow. Mrs. Sleeper is regaining strength rapidly. Our headquarters will be in the Webster parsonage in a week or two.

Do you want me to make any effort to increase the fund for "Industrial Department" of Samokov Training School?

Very truly & resp'y yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper.

W.W. Shepr

Webster, Mass.
Sept. 7, '87 -

Dear Dr. Clark,

We made a special collection here last Sunday for famine sufferers at Adana & vicinity, raising about $45, which with $11 previously sent by members of our Ch. for same purpose, makes $56, nearly.

I am greatly enjoying pastoral work, and am having just the practice and experience which I have long felt the need of. I shall attack the contributions presently, think of again making a place for myself at that point. It is understood all around, I think, that I am not to return there.

Ditto for Philippopolis & Monastir Stations.

From Constantinople, I have received kind & somewhat urgent letters from Bro. Thomson, asking me to consider the need of another missionary in the publication department, and suggesting ~~that~~ perhaps "I am the man".

I somewhat doubt the need of a third missionary in Const. — for will not Dr. Riggs return now his wife has passed away? Besides,

M. W. [illegible]

Webster, Mass.
Jan. 2. 88.

Dear Dr. Clark:

Yours of 28th ult. is at hand. I have not written you for some time, because I had nothing new to report. I am, as you rightly supposed, "going on quietly with my work, finding great enjoyment in pastoral labor and care." My health is excellent, so also that of my wife and the three little ones. We are both enjoying the novel experiences of the winter, both as they develope themselves in our work here, and in our delightful, frequent intercourse with our families in Worcester.

We have given very little thought to the question regarding our future field of labor. Last year, and previously, we were distressed with anxious thoughts on this matter. It has been an unspeakable relief to drop into the place Providentially provided, and to leave this troublesome matter in God's hands.

In reviewing my life since leaving the Seminary, I cannot doubt that God has directed my footsteps. The going to Bulgaria certainly seemed to be ordered by Providence; so also the return, and my present work, which seemed to await me, and which is so attractive to us both.

Reasoning from past experience, when the time comes for us to move again, must I not believe He will show it to me?

Perhaps I ought not to look around even until that time comes; but in surveying the field, it is hard for me to see any other point to move to, just at present.

As to Bulgaria: Samokov Station is providentially & very happily full. I could not mother to care for them alone in a city like Sophia, grows more & more repulsive, not only to ourselves, but to our friends here. It would really be much better to leave my family here in America & go alone; but we are not prepared to take that step. We must see a very clear Providential leading first.

— Austria has been mentioned in our correspondence; but if Providence wants me to go there, it would seem that He would prepare the way a little better. Mr. A.W. Clark perhaps prefers to choose his own associate — or have none; and for my

I have never had any inclination towards the work of editing & publishing: I do not think my work lies in that direction. I will say that Mrs. Sleeper would greatly enjoy such work, and I think has excellent ability therefor. Still, what should *I* do in Const.? I cannot bring myself to feel that I should go there.

There remains the idea I suggested last Spring— that of going into the field "at large," with or without a company, as Musical Evangelist: making headquarters at Sophia. But when this scheme was urged in Bulgaria, delightful, frequent intercourse with our families in Worcester.

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There remains the idea I suggested last Spring — that of going into the field "at large," with or without a company, as Musical Evangelist: making headquarters at Sophia. But when this scheme was urged in Bulgaria, both before Trustees and in Annual Meeting, it met with opposition, I may say on all sides. To be sure, Bros. J. G. Bliss & Sampson, (and Ladd, ~~delegates~~ from other Missions) spoke in favor of the enterprise, I do not think any brother *then* at Samokov or Philippopolis favored the plan. Yet I dare say there would be no open opposition to it, from any missionary, lest such discouragement might keep us away from Bulgaria.

Now I do not feel like crowding in upon the Mission a new line of work which cannot be *heartily supported* (not merely tolerated) by the brethren. These were the impressions & feelings I had just before coming away, & they are not changed.

One other objection, however, then scarcely thought of, now grows larger & larger: namely, what would become of my family?

To succeed in this new enterprise, I must be moving *constantly*. If I stay in Sophia, I am trenching on ground already well occupied by the Evangelical Society. My family is now larger than before, & requires constant care. The mother *cannot* tour with me. It is impossible to carry 3 little ones over the necessary routes in Bulgaria & Macedonia, & care for them.

The thought of leaving the

part I think he ought to have the privilege. It is plain that his thoughts have not set in my direction at all; for he has been familiar with my address for several years.

I am gradually being led to the conviction that it makes less difference in the Kingdom of God than I had foolishly supposed, where I am, provided I do my best for the advancement of that Kingdom. "The field is the world" — all of it, and perhaps I am not especially needed anywhere at present more than here. But if I am, and whenever I am, I am willing to go. If the Lord prepares the way.

Very truly yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

W. W. Shirley

Webster, Mass.
March 6, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.
Sec'y A. B. C. F. M.,

Dear Dr. Clark;

Circumstances are such that I feel obliged to withdraw, for the present, from foreign missionary work. It may not be impossible, at some future time, to resume this work, should Providence point out the way.

I feel deeply thankful to you for all your kind

W. W. Sleeper.

words and helpful advice, during the years of my work in Bulgaria. I am also grateful to the Prudential Committee for their charity towards me.

Wishing the American Board a continuance of divine blessing in the work of preaching Christ among the nations, and yourself still many years of strength and wisdom in its service,

I am, dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

Webster Mar. 26, '88.

Rec'd Mar. 27.

Webster, Mass.
March 26, '88 -

My dear Dr. Clark;

Your kind letter relative to my dismissal has been received. I am very thankful for the confidence & sympathy it shows. Please do not think that the brethren in Bulgaria were at all lacking in these qualities, toward me, or in the expression of them, I do not feel that my work was not fully appreciated. It has seemed to me that it was decidedly over-rated by the Mission. And I have no doubt but what the Mission would vote, cordially & unanimously, to give me considerable liberty to prosecute my plans for musical touring, even though their own judgment might not approve the measure. That is to say, I believe the Mission would allow me to make the experiment, altho' many of the brethren would not expect it to succeed.

On the score of appreciation, and kindness, & brotherliness, I have no cause to complain. I also believe my being tied so closely to the school the last year or two was owing to the force of circumstances quite as much as to any desire that I should give my time almost exclusively to teaching. I have nothing but the kindest sentiments toward the dear brethren in Bulgaria & I believe they have the same toward me. I trust the Lord has led me, & I believe he can lead me back, & keep me there, if he wants.

Yesterday I was in Oxford on an exchange, & interested a good audience in the evening, on "Bulgaria."

/ The enclosed letter bears postmark Wilna, in Russia. I think the address is:

"M(onsieur). Haskell, Henry: (?)
1 Somerset place, (?)
Boston, Mass,
In America."

(The "PL" after "Samoset" may be for "Ploshtad," which in Russian means "Square". The foreign words are of the Russian, not Bulgarian.)

If there is a Somerset place it might be tried: but I imagine the letter is for Rev. Henry C. Haskell, of Samokov.

Very truly yours. Wm. W. Sleeper.

Rev. W. W. Sleeper. 348.

Princeton, Mass,
Aug. 23. 1888.

Rec'd Aug. 24.

Rev. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 14th reached me in Webster after ome delay.

I have closed my work n Webster, preaching last unday for the last time. he parish voted to reëngage e for a year, & the church voted extend me a call; but I topped proceedings in the matter, ecause I saw that I could ot quite harmonize the church, hich has had a troublesome istory, and is burdened by few who will rule or ruin.

The year's work has done me good, and I trust the church in a better condition than it was a year ago- It was quite hard to say farewell to my many warm friends, but the step seemed the only wise o to take, unless I meant to force a division.

I have been addressed by two Connecticut churches; als by Secy Maile of Nebraska; an by a Worcester pastor of prominenc relation to future work. Brother Thomson has kept urging upon my attention the needs of the Publication Department in Constantinople, (Bulg. Missio In a very recent letter Dr. Hous suggests Sofia as a possible field of much usefulness -

I look upon the Bulgarian
ld with a peculiar, tender
gard. I do not see any
ening in that direction, unless
be in Constantinople. I say
ankly that I have never felt
t all inclined to undertake
urely literary work, & I have
e gravest doubts as to my ability
t succeed even partially in
uch work. It is true that
this work would be quite to
Mrs. Sleeper's taste, but of course
he would be able to devote only
portion of time to it, & possibly,
or long periods, none at all.
It has been a notion with
s that after a certain
xperience in active pastoral
rk. we might turn to the
iterary field with some zest,

but I hardly think that
time has come yet.

Taking into consideration
the condition of our fathers'
families, we also think th
we ought not to go so far
away from them, at present,
that a visit at least once a
year would be impracticable.

We desire to be truly led
of Providence, now as heretofore
We would not turn a deaf ea
to any appeal; and we thin
the way for a return East wi
be made plainer to us,
when the time comes to g

Thank you for your kin
letter. I will keep you
posted as to my whereabouts.

I did not tell you that we
lost our little girl, 2 years old, i
June, by complicated measles—

Very sincerely yours,
Wm. W. Sleep

Address:
74 Lincoln St. Worcester.

W. W. Sleeper —

24 Richards St. ✓
Worcester, Mass.
Oct. 12, 1888.

Dear Dr. Clark,

Since leaving Webster, two months ago, I hav responded to invitations from various churches seeking a pastor, but hav not received call. I cannot submit further candidating: it is simply unendurable. — This y way of preface.

Your recent suggestion s to prompt return to the ulgarian Mission, with location in Constantinople, struck note in our hearts that has been vibrating for more than year. As I wrote you, owever, we do not see the way lear to return immediately. he most apparent of many reasons is, the very feeble condition of my wife's mother This makes it desirable to remain in the vicinity of Worce & not in the city itself.

If there is a fair prospect that we shall be wanted ultima in the literary work of the Mission, I would endeavor meanwhile to fit myself for the highest degree of usefulness therein. It is possib that after a few years I migh feel better qualified for such high work. President Hartranft has counselled me recent to accept the Constple position, offered me, on the ground tha it is the very highest service Gods Kingdom. Either that, he thinks, or "professorial work But I cannot believe that I a qualified for such lofty duti

Can you make me any suggestion as to the best wa employing the time that ay necessarily elapse between w and a return to foreign rvice? The problem is mewhat complicated, because must support my family- can do various things— but o far as I have experimented, o church in this vicinity ares for my services as pastor-

If you would like to see e. I can go to Boston any ay next week but Thursday.

Very sincerely yours,
Wm. W. Sleeper-

Worcester, Mass. 24 Richards St,
Oct. 19, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 13th I beg leave to acknowledge, and return herewith the papers sent me for perusal.

It is plain from the Circular Mission Letter that there is no place for me in the Bulgarian Mission at present. The idea there seems to be, to keep me in reserve for a possible contingency. No immediate action is called for. And I am forced to believe that on the question of inviting me to Constantinople, should it now arise, the Mission vote would stand 5 vs 4, and I should not accept! Dr. Riggs doubts my qualification for the post, and three others w'd not want me assigned to any definite work. I do not think Dr. R. quite understands my position, or he w'd not think me vacillating. You will bear me witness that I have never expressed any desire to return to the same work I have so recently been discharged from. The Publication Work is an entirely new & distinct field, and naturally when it is presented so often & urged so vigorously upon my attention, as it has been in many letters from the Mission, I cannot ignore it, bu am forced to give it careful attention. Thi is all the warring that has taken place in my mind. Our ~~My~~ return seems to me both as distinctly Providential as our going out, even if the reasons therefor cannot comme themselves to our brethren on the field.

I hope my recent letter to you (12th inst.) is not misunderstood. I did not mean to say that my present lack of ready work was compelling me to seek employment again under the Board. That wd be very unworthy, and I should hope the Prudential Committee wd never send a man abroad who cannot find work here at home. I simply meant to say, that in case this Publication Field is at some future day to be offered me, it wd be worth while meantime for me to engage in lines of work and special study which would in a greater measure qualify me fo

that most important but highly arduous
work. I have repeatedly said that I
cannot regard myself as fitted for any
such post. Neither taste nor training
points me to literary work. But I am
not too old to learn, provided Providence
indicates that as my ultimate & mature
field of labor. And I wrote you,
thinking you might like to *advise* me
in regard to my immediate work.

There is no lack of opportunity.
Altho' a few village Churches desire to
"go on candidating." I am not sorry
they do: it leaves me free for a wider
choice.

Since writing you, 7 or 8 distinct
fields in the West have been presented to me
for consideration, and I have also received a
practically unanimous call to the associate
pastorate of Salem St. Church in this city.
As this latter is the only out-and-out
call I have received, and as it seems
providential in several other respects, I
mean to accept it, as my temporary
work. It will afford me a rare

opportunity for developing my ideas concerning Church music, Church organization and city mission-work. I shall also have plenty of preaching. Whether it is to be permanent or not, it will be a capital training school, and brings me into the heart of our best Church life and work.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Wm. W. Sleeper

Rec'd Oct. 20.

Rev. Wm. W.
Sleeper, & Mrs. M. A.

351 – 353.

Order of Exercises

AT THE

ORDINATION OF

WILLIAM WASHBURN SLEEPER,

As Missionary to Bulgaria.

UNION CHURCH, WORCESTER, MASS.

Thursday Eve'g, Aug. 31, 1882,

At 7:30.

L. P. Goddard, Printer, 425 Main St., Worcester.

Order of Exercises.

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1. STATEMENT, - - - MODERATOR.
2. RECORDS OF COUNCIL, - - SCRIBE.
3. INVOCATION.
4. SCRIPTURE SELECTION.
5. HYMN.
6. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE,
   REV. W. T. SLEEPER.
7. ADDRESS,
   REV. N. G. CLARK, D. D., SEC'Y A. B. C. F. M.
8. HYMN.
9. PRAYER OF ORDINATION, REV. E. CUTLER, D. D.

10. ORIGINAL HYMN, - - By W. T. SLEEPER.

Music by B. D. ALLEN.

The Macedonian Cry.

It came in the glow of childhood,
When full of joy and play,
A voice so sad and plaintive,
And thus it seemed to say :

"Come over and help us, brother,
To lands beyond the sea,
Where poor, and blind, and dying,
God's helpless children be."

It came in the dreams of midnight,
It came in morning's hour,
And on the breath of evening,
With strange, persuasive power.

'Twas heard in early manhood,
When life had more of care ;
'Twas heard in halls of learning ;
'Twas heard when bowed in prayer.

It came to the soul's deep query:
" What shall my life work be ? "
Through all the spirit's chambers,
Like a voice from Calvary.

11. RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP,

Rev. J. F. CLARKE, of the Bulgarian Mission.

12. THE CHARGE, Rev. C. D. HARTRANFT, D. D.

13. HYMN.

14. BENEDICTION.

W. W. Harper

Queenstown. Sept. 1882

Recd. Oct 2

S. S. "City of Rome."
Atlantic Ocean,
Sept. 16, 1882 -

Dear Dr. Clark,

This will be mailed at Queenstown, to inform you of our safe arrival, thus far. We have all enjoyed the passage, with exception of Miss Spooner, who decidedly prefers journeying by land. She is recovering now, and has not been *very* sick -

The voyage has been a rest, and we shall only make a short stay in London

Order of Exercises.

1. [illegible] MODERATOR.

2. RECORDS OF COUNCIL, [illegible] SCRIBE.

3. INVOCATION.

4. SCRIPTURE SELECTION.

5. HYMN.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE,
REV. W. T. SLEEPER.

7. ADDRESS,
REV. N. G. CLARK, D.D., SEC'Y A. B. C. F. M.

8. HYMN.

9. PRAYER OF ORDINATION, REV. E. CUTLER, D.D.

10. ORIGINA

11. RIGHT

12. THE C

13. MESS

14. BENE

Thank you greatly for the good-by message - We have started under the fairest auspices. and trust nothing will occur to prove them deceitful -

Very truly yours,

Wm. W. Sleeper.

people, as well as of the missionary work among them.

I am greatly interested in increasing the slender stock of attractive literature for young people in this language, the more so, as the mass of the villagers are children in mental attainments and would appreciate very highly anything written simply and attractively, as to children.

I am preparing Dr. Todd's "Lectures to Children" now; and hope to receive an answer from you sufficiently favorable to enable me to under-

Samokov, Bulgaria, Europe.
Oct. 4, 1886.

Dear Dr. Clark,

Would there be any possibility of our obtaining the illustrations which appear in "Mission Stories of Many Lands"? We should prefer a loan of the plates, of which we would take the best possible care, and return them when we had used them. But if that is out of the question, could not some way be found of defraying the expense of printing a large part of them in Boston, and forwarding them to us to be bound in the books which would have been printed here?

There is no missionary literature in the Bulgarian language, and almost nothing in the way of children's literature, or of illustrated books. Yet nothing, save music and flowers, pleases people so much as the pictures we always have on hand to show them.

I have found the "Mission Stories of Many Lands" an especially attractive book to them; so much so, that I believe, if placed on the counter of some of the leading book-stores of the country, it would meet a ready sale, and reach many who would ordinarily scorn to buy anything printed by the protestants.

In order to bring the price within reach of the protestant friends, who are not rich, I should propose issuing the book in the form of a series of pamphlets, one devoted to each country, and the reading matter, rather than a translation of the English edition, to include a little sketch of the country, of the customs and manners of the take the enterprise of giving these people some missionary literature.

Sincerely yours,

Mabel Allen Sleeper.

To

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.,
Congregational House,
Boston, Mass.

Spooner, Miss E. L.

354 - 363.

E. L. Spooner

Jamaica Plain June 24 1882

Recd June 26

✓

Jamaica Plain,
Mass

Dr. N. G. Clark,

Dear Sir;

I have decided to leave Jamaica Plain July 6th and go to Everett, where I shall remain until sent away by the "A. B. C. F. M."
I wish time to rest and to se my friends before going and think it best I should give up my care here.

Are you willing I should have the organ you sent me, taken to Everett, if I have the Smith Organ Co. box and move it? I shall have time to practice while there.

The study of music has been a great privilege and pleasure to me, for which I sincerely thank you.

Please let me hear from you as soon as you can conveniently do so.

Yours Resp'ly
E. C. Spooner.

June 24 '82.

Miss E. L. Spooner

Everett Aug. 28. 1882

Recd. Aug 28.

Ans. Aug. 30/82

C. H.

Everett, Mass.
Aug. 28/82.

Dr. N. G. Clark,
Dear Sir.

I have sent quite a number of articles to the packing rooms on Somerset St. I think it would be better to have as many as possible packed in one large box, instead of sending separate parcels. Ought I to order a box or will some one at the rooms who knows better than I where one of a suitable size can be obtained: Do I need to make out an invoice of the goods - I believe Mr. L. S. Ward has rec'd all bills. Mr. Hutchings purchased

what books I need, I do not yet know their value.

Shall I send the organ and one trunk to the rooms early this week - I do not expect to be here after Thurs. My address will be the same as it has been.

I shall be at Mr. S. B. Capen's Jamaica Plain, from Thurs. of this week until Tues. of next, a letter sent to J. P. in Mr. Capen's care would reach me.

Resp'ly

E. L. Spooner.

what books I need, I do

Miss E. L. Spooner

Everett. Sept 5. 1882

Recd Sept 6.

a. Sept 6/82
L.S.W.

"Done gone! Sept 7th

No, she will be at
B & Albany depot at
4 P.M. Friday - &
to take train of 4.30,
L.S.W.

Everett, Mass.
Sept. 5, '82

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir.

I have just rec'd yours of Aug. 30. I have already sent an inventory and invoice of goods which I packed at my home. Value of goods purchased with with Board's money as follows:—

Furniture	$121.22
Clothing	39.46
Saddle & Bridle	40.50
Trunk & Valise	11.00
Photographs ..	9.75
	$221.93

For medicines ——
" Books — — ——
" Hardware - - ——

For books - see Mr. Hutchings - he purchased them for me and must know their value.

I do not know what the bill at Otis Clapp's is. For this and Hardware bill - inquire of Mr. L. S. Ward.

I will see you Thurs. A.M.

Resp'ly

E. L. Spooner.

a monstrous rat runs across the room, and I am so afraid he will jump on me. I shouldn't be so timid early in the ev'g; it is very late and every one but myself has retired so I shall have to battle alone with him. Fleas are bad but rats are infinitely worse to contend with.

We had a delightful journey but were not sorry to reach the end. I have been six weeks in my new home - it seems as many months though each day has passed quickly. I like Monastir very much and the missionaries have been so kind I have hardly had one moment of homesickness - You will soon see Mr. Jenney, he will tell you all about the work doing here.

Please remember me to Dr. Means and Dr. Alden.

Resp'ly
E. L. Spooner.

Monastir, Turkey.
Dec. 12/5 '82.

Rec'd Jan. 1. 1883.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir.

I have wanted very much to write before this but the days have flown so rapidly the opportunity has not come. I regret that I had to leave Boston without saying 'good bye'; I wanted so much to see you. I was unavoidably detained.

O. I am so glad to be here!

I cannot thank you enough for sending me to the work in this place. There is plenty to do and just the kind of work I shall thoroughly enjoy.

The school is not as large as ~~I~~ we thought before coming. I hope

For medicines ——

Books — — ——

Hardware - - ——

For books - see Mr. Hutchings - he purchased them for me and must know their value.

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O. I am so glad to be here! I cannot thank you enough for sending me to the work in this place. There is plenty to do and just the kind of work I shall thoroughly enjoy.

The school is not as large as I thought before coming. I hope

soon every seat will be filled.
You know, probably, much about the school, its teachers &c.
We hope to do a great deal to help these girls to be useful in the world. A number expect to teach when they shall have finished a course of study here. If we could but be sure that all who go out from the school were Christians then surely we should feel repaid an hundred fold for any amount of labor and time spent with and for them. I long to be able to help. I wish the teachers in the school were different, I don't want to criticise unkindly the actions of any one, especially one who loves and trusts me. I cannot betray the friend. I must say, however, I very much fear we shall not get on well together for our ideas of school

work and discipline are so at variance and Miss Crawford probably thinks her way best, I am just as positive my way is the right way.

I did not come here to make trouble but to help those in darkness to see and receive the Light, and sincerely hope to accomplish much. I feel sure if the teachers but live very close to the Master they will exert an influence for good over these dear girls, who are so ready and glad to receive the truth.

We are all sorry Mr. & Mrs. Jenney are to go to America. It seems as if they cannot possibly be spared. They need to go - our home will lonely without them.

I am studying Bulgarian and recite to Mr. Bond.

I cannot write with any degree of comfort for every few minutes clean. I think it is not too often to hire it ~~done~~ scrubbed once in two weeks. We can hire a woman to do such work for $.40 per da. The natives have the floors in their home scrubbed white. Ought we to give them the impression that Americans do not know the art of cleanliness? Is it possible for the Board to allow us money for half a dozen bedsteads, a small am't for hiring work done and money for a small bath-house? If you were here I am sure you would feel the great needs of the school as much as I. Mr. Jenney has spent a great deal of money in building prayer-rooms, furnishing

t D. Alden & Gen. Mecome.

Monastir, Turkey.

2/28 - '83.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir.

I received your letter in due time. I wish very much you could pay us a visit, and see our school. I am very deeply interested in all its workings. The more I see of the girls the more am I convinced there are some very choice spirits among them. I believe there are forty pupils here, fifteen of which are boarders. The number has increased since I came and others are to come this week from Skopia. There are fourteen ironbedsteads, one little one has to sleep

Please remember me kindly to Dr. Alden & Dr. Means.
Resp'ly yours
E. L. Sp

on the floor. What shall we do
for bedsteads for the girls who
are ~~to~~ soon to come to us?
Good ones can be obtained here
at a lower price than in Eng-
Mr. Bond bought one last week
for ~~six~~ five liras Turkish. There are
other and greater needs which
trouble me. We have no bath
for the girls and it is with great
difficulty that we succeed in
having them bathe once a fort-
night at the public baths.
It seems to me we can hardly
expect the girls to keep well
when we have to let them
go sometimes three wks in
such a condition.

The scholars are too young
to do heavy work. They do
a great deal for such little
things but I am afraid more

is required of them than is best. They have all their food to prepare and the necessary dish washing connected with such work. They scrub the entire building with the exception of the large schoolroom, there is sweeping and dusting to be attended to daily. All the girls over twelve do their washing every other Sat. P. M. Most of this work has to be done after four o'clock in the afternoon, after the girls have been six hours in the schoolroom. I think they need more exercise in the open air.

If we had no school on Sat. it would be much easier for the girls to do necessary work.

I dislike very much to have the schoolroom, which serves for church on the Sabbath, un-

Spooner

Monastir ~~Feb~~ 28. 1883

Recd. May 27

the purpose. I will let her tell you about it.

I've been very sick but am now in my normal condition.

All the members of the station are well. The Jenney's are very busy getting ready to go to America. Mr. Bond's family are to move into Mr. Baird's house soon, so that Mr. Bond can be near his work (he is getting ready to build) the Baird's are coming here to occupy Mr. Jenney's house during his absence.

Miss Crawford will board herself and I shall live with the Baird's until the Summer vacation. I have recd kind letters from the friends in Samakov, Constantinople & Philippopolis make a large globe &c. for the school. Miss Crawford has done a great deal for the girls. She has bought nearly all the Eng. books used in the school, has given clothing and other things. If we only could have more money to work with we should be very happy.

We are rejoicing now that the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of some of our number. Athene, a Greek girl, an intelligent, wide awake, interesting child has given herself to God. None of us know what a struggle she has had. From the time she first accepted the Protestant faith she was refused admitance to her home. She has kept very close to the Saviour and thus has been enabled on the floor. What shall we do for bedsteads for the girls who are ~~to~~ soon to come to us? Good ones can be obtained here at a lower price than in Eng- Mr. Bond bought one last week for ~~[illegible]~~ five liras Turkish. There are other and greater needs which trouble me. We have no bath for the girls and it is with great difficulty that we succeed in having them bathe once a fortnight at the public baths. It seems to me we can hardly expect the girls to keep well when we have to let them go sometimes three wks in such a condition.

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Athene is an unusually good scholar and hopes to prepare herself for a teacher. We hope she may someday be an assistant teacher in this school. Another girl has said she wishes to live a better life. Most of the others seem very thoughtful. There has been during the weeks past a marked change in the spirit of the Brethren. We feel that the Holy Spirit is reaching the hearts of a few of the natives and shall not we too be blessed?

Miss Crawford is writing you today. Miss Crawford had to be in school four hours a day almost as soon as she came, depending upon her evenings for learning the language. Is it any wonder she has not succeeded well with it? She has just given herself, all her time and strength to the work from the first. Laboring under great disadvantages, she has put all thought of self aside in her desire to serve others. She is a thoroughly unselfish person. The more I know her the better I like her.

Miss Crawford, since receiving your letter, has commenced to study Bulgarian in earnest—taking two hours a day for

Monastir, Oct. 2, 1883.

Rec'd Oct. 29.

✓

Monastir, Oct. 2, '83.

Dr. N. G. Clark,

Dear Sir.

I am once more in my pleasant home in Monastir, after an absence of four and a half months.

I assure you I'm glad to be here again. I enjoyed the summer in Samakov very much, there is a delightful circle of Americans there, besides which we had the pleasure of the friends from Philippopolis.

I suffered a great deal at times, during the first two months from nervous exhaustion, but the last of the vacation I gained rapidly & was able to sleep ten & twelve hours every night and still continue to do as well in regard to sleeping.

Mrs. Locke was a good mother to me, no one could have been kinder.

Dr. Kingsbury did all he could to make the time pass pleasantly – he went to walk with me, played croquet, read aloud, in fact was ready to do anything to help me enjoy my visit. Since he forbade studying and didn't like me to read or write much, I needed just such a friend & brother. Mrs. Kingsbury is a delightful friend to have, I spent many happy hours in her home.

Miss Stone went with me to Cons'ple and helped me make purchases for house-furnishing. I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Cole, who I'm sure will be a pleasant addition to the Samakov circle.

Mr. Pettibone accompanied me home and he will leave here tomorrow. Miss Crawford had an enjoyable vacation at Halki - an island near Conple, and returns to the work in much better condition, physically, than when she left.

I will be careful of my health, that I may work long in Macedonia. We hear good news from the Jenneys. Both Mr. & Mrs. J. are gaining rapidly. I hope you are very much better.

Resp'ly yours,

E. L. Spooner.

has an associate *utterly incapable of caring properly* for *herself*, saying nothing of her work.

Our home-life has been pleasant until lately - now Miss C- has gotten into such a nervous state that the least noise of the girls nearly drives her frantic. Things have gotten into a sad state.

I am daily dreading Miss C's breaking down. The thought that the Trustees must take some action in regard to Miss C's staying - has hung over me like a cloud. This work has been dearer than life to her and she has given her time night & day for the girls. She *unwisely* spent much time during her first year studying French which is not necessary here, and in a word "had a poor start. Mr. Baird had a frank talk with Miss C- & suggested her

Monastir, May 6/'84.

Rec'd June 2nd

Dear Dr. Clark.

I wish I could tell you all you would like to know about our school. In order that you may fully understand I must write somethings which may seem unkind and unchristian. If you will believe me that my *only* reason for writing these things is that you may realize my trying position, & see the necessity of sending a *thoroughly practical*, *liberally educated*, *experienced teacher* — *immediately*. I will enclose our curriculum of studies, which speaks for itself. This is our position in its simplest form. Miss Crawford has resigned and our native teacher has left us for a few months of rest. If I could have a few weeks of rest *now* I might be eased to the work. This seems impossible, for all the responsibility of the school rests upon me and I must keep up. I pray for Strength to finish this term. Only seven weeks more of school.

When I returned last Fall, I was full of hope for our work.
At first I took charge of the "domestic department" for the school, housekeeping for Miss C. & myself, three classes, and studied some. I had an excellent teacher for a few weeks. Things seemed moving on more satisfactorily than last year, though there was an undercurrent of dissatisfaction.
Miss C. didn't get on well with the native teacher and some of the girls complained about Miss C's being so cross they didn't wish to remain in the school.
In November the most promis-

ing girl in our number - who during a part of last year was an assistant teacher left us, her only reason given was that she couldn't endure Miss C- & wouldn't live in the same house with her another day.

On going into the class room one day in Jan'y I found three girls crying bitterly and on inquiring the cause found they wished to leave us. These girls were compelled to return this year against their wishes, for they were so unhappy the previous year they dreaded a repetion. I immediately gave up studying and entered more fully into the school work determined to make things pleasanter if possible.

I thought to avoid the rock on which Miss C had fallen, & know first the language.

I took all the responsibility & this means a great deal when one

I have a few minutes before recess and will add a few words in regard to our need of a teacher.

You will see by looking at the "Curriculum of Studies" that it is necessary to send a teacher who understands fully the branches taught in the 4th & 5th Classes, as some of those I've never studied. Will it be possible to send some one who can be here at the opening of the Fall term?

I would like to suggest one name. Miss Laura Jones of Chelsea is an earnest Christian and interested in Mission work. I don't know that she ever thought of engaging in it personally - but have often thought she would be a great help in such a school as "Cove"ple Home". She is a graduate of Wellesley College. I wish she might enter the work.

Resp'ly yours E. L. Sponer.

our native teacher left, so I have less housework to look after.

Four of our girls are going before the church-committee next Sunday for examination. These dear girls wished to take such a step a year ago but they were advised to wait. Their growth in the Christian life has been steady & sure. We heartily recommend them. Five others have given their hearts to the Saviour, and they are so happy in their new life they wish to make a public confession of their faith. We advise them to live very closely to Jesus - to trust Him fully, to work for Him - and after a year to unite with the Christians in partaking of the "Sacrament".

After talking with the girls they seemed willing to do what seemed best to us. I am so thankful for the privilege of being here.

resigning when Annual Meeting was in session, which she did & at the request of the Trustees consented to stay and finish the term, doing the best she could.--------

It was thought by some it would be wise to invite Miss Stone to take charge of the school for a year. It seems to me it would be better to close the school for a time than to take her from the work which has grown so under her hands, and which under her faithful supervision promises such an abundant harvest. I cannot see that the work here calls more loudly than that in the many, many villages scattered through Bulgaria, Roumelia & Macedonia which have needed and will need during years to come just such a consecrated, practical, systematic Christian director as Miss Stone.

I've written to Miss Maltbie to see if she could possibly spare her best Bulgarian teacher, Miss Penka, to come to us in the Fall. This young lady has taught for four years in the Samakov school, the most advanced classes, giving perfect satisfaction. It would be hard for Miss Maltbie to give her up - but with seven more to help her it would be comparatively easy for her to train one of her graduates - much easier than it would be for us to have an inexperienced teacher. There is one great obstacle in the way of her coming even if she can be spared. She has received nearly double the salary our teacher has rec'd. She is a bright, intelligent lovable young woman, a good disciplinarian and a teacher whom our girls could look up to and respect. She would do much to put this school on a good foundation.

Several troublesome questions were settled during Annual Meeting. We were all cheered and strengthened by the visit from so many dear friends. It was with great pleasure we welcomed Miss Stone, Miss Graves & Mr. Locke's oldest daughter to our home. We exchanged guests, of course, during the day but our home was the quiet resting place for the ladies.

-------------- I have six classes this term only one of which is in English. Besides these classes I have the care of the sewing department, housekeeping for the school, and teaching songs, poems and dialogues for examination. The latter are mostly in English & must be translated so as to be clearly understood. Miss C. & I have been obliged to eat with the girls since

Ann Spooner

May
Monastir, Turkey 7/1874.

Dr. N. G. Clark.

Dear Sir—

I really think I'd better leave here for America when Miss Crawford does—July 2nd. or 3rd. The journey will be very hard during the Summer months but I am so fearful lest I may be worse instead of better, and be a care and expense and be unable to travel by delaying, that I am sure it is better to go now.

If Mr. Bond is better—he is suffering with a severe cold—he will come into the school on Monday and take my classes.

me without all this pain & expense.
I do not suffer except from extreme weakness - and now every task is burdensome. Mrs. Bond says medicine will not help me, unless I have perfect rest - I cannot rest when there is freedom from care &c. so much to do - Conscious I'm keeping the place which might be filled so much more satisfactorily by a stronger person. It is like death to think of going from home. The Bonds are not ready to say I ought to go - I think the Bairds are. ~~Miss C.~~ - If the six weeks out of school makes any marked change in health I may consider remaining - but unless something can be done to make me sleep - improvement is out of the question. I wish I might hear from you in Cons'ple.

Resp'ly yours
E. L. Spooner.

Scutari, Nov. 7, 1884.

Miss Crawford is much out of health - I'm afraid she will give out before school finishes. She cannot sleep - suffers with rheumatism &c-.

I don't yet know where I can stay when I get home. My sisters are boarding and of course it would be hard to be dependant on my brothers-in-law. I will ~~s~~pend word today to my sisters and feel quite sure one of them will gladly go to housekeeping so I may have a quiet resting-place.

I am much stronger than I was last Summer and much of the time am perfectly well. I haven't lost a day from school since I returned last Fall - and it seems to me that something might be done, to help

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Resp'ly yours
E. L. Spooner.

Rec'd Nov. 28.

hoped we might be together many years.---- At present there are two Bulg. and one Greek teacher besides Miss Cole. The latter has let the greater part of the care fall upon the Bulg's— two or three classes have been dropped for this year and the work made easier in several directions. Miss C. takes her meals at the Baird's. I believe that Miss C. will be helped by her position this winter though she will no doubt be very lonely at times. She will exert herself more in studying and using the language than she otherwise would.

Have you seen or heard from Miss Crawford? Oh if I'd but had such a companion as Miss Cole in the first place I don't believe I should be so worn out. I pray that God may grant me health, and the privilege of again serving Him in Monastir. I hope you are well.

Sincerely, Yours — E. L. Spooner.

Scutari, Nov. 7. 1884.
Rec'd Nov. 28.

a 29 a.
At Dr. Wood's, Scutari 11/7;84.

To the Rev. Dr. N. G. Clark. D.D.

Dear Dr. Clark.

I surely should have written you before this had I not known both the gentlemen at our Station and Miss Cole had told you of my ill health which necessitated my leaving Monastir.

I've waited for some plan to be settled upon by the brethren here, before writing you. The friends thought when I came five wks ago I had better travel with Mr. Knapp of Bitlis who was planning going to America. You have doubtless heard that Mr. K. was taken sick when within a few hours of Erzroum and lay ill in a village thirteen days before he could be moved. He has not yet arrived and the friends do not think it prudent for me to go home, as the season is so far advanced. It has been decided that I go to Philippopolis and spend the winter with Miss Stone or the Thomsons, and help in the Bulgarian work as I am able. In Mr. Thomson's letter to Dr. Byington he says - "Dr. Russell here seems to be an exceedingly skilful doctor, and Miss S.: might go far before finding one more worthy to be consulted". It may be I shall find in Philippopolis just the medical help I need, and may not have to go to America after all. I shall be where I can gain a better knowledge of the Bulg. language and shall improve every opportunity to do this.

It must seem to you, and probably ~~with~~ to the dear ones with whom I'm, or have been associated since here, that my coming out as a missionary was all a terrible mistake. I should be very unhappy if I thought this. No, Dr. Clark, I *know* there was no mistake in it. The Lord made the way before me very plain —. He has chosen to lead me through *trying*, *painful experiences* during these two years but He has never left me and I've drawn closer and closer to Him, as I found no other friend who could sustain and guide and help as He can.

The work grew more and more interesting as the months passed by — the longing to help our girls to know Christ, to help them to live truer, better lives became intense, and it seemed like taking my life to part with those children. I lived but one short month with Miss Cole — this was long enough, however, to show me what a delightful companion I might have in her. We were perfectly congenial and

Revere, Aug. 21. 1885,

Rec'd Aug. 25.

ack'd by postal do. a.

Revere, Aug. 21, '85.
Mass.

Dear Dr. Clark.

As the physician under whose care I am not only advises but *insists* upon my going from here for a change, I write you, that you may know why I do not remain in this most quiet and pleasant of homes.

I am much stronger and have gained a pound in weight since coming here. I've spent much of the summer in the open air and for several weeks have been able to walk to the sea-shore nearly every day.

Over.

But withal, I'm not able to sleep but by using strong narcotics and have less & less appetite. Perhaps a few weeks in the country may prove beneficial. Dr. Weeks assures me I shall be well, but a long time may be necessary for full recovery.

I don't yet know where I'll go. I've been invited to spend a month with friends in Providence but the doctor objects to my going into the city or among friends for the present. Wherever I go it will not be for two weeks at the least. I may be able to call on you before going and will then tell you my decision.

No letters have come to me from Monastir since my return. I am very hungry for news from there and hope you may have heard recently. There will be no objection to my seeing the school report, if I call, will there? Last week's mail brought me letters from Miss Stone, Mrs. Marsh and a good long letter from Miss Graves. The latter seems really quite strong and writes in a most cheerful, hopeful manner. I hope she'll work many years in Bulgaria. Can you tell me Mr. Baird's address?

Sincerely yours-

E. L. Spooner.

Stone, Miss Ellen M.

364-422.

about Miss Stone.

7

Bulgaria.

59 Rutland Sqr.
Boston Mass.

Rev. N. G. Clark—

Dear Sir—

The bearer Miss Stone is improving very well and I think she will be able to return to her work in Bulgaria after a week or two of further treatment—

Very Truly
E. C. Keller

concerned, I have peremptorily forbidden any missionary addresses etc. in which I trust you concur, i.e. for the present,

Yours very truly
James H. Denny.

Nov. 14 '82

Miss E. M. Stone, " " 15 & a)

No. 7 Newbury St. Boston.
November 18th 1882.

Rev. Dr. E. K. Alden:
Secretary Am. Board etc.
My dear Sir.

I am of the opinion that Miss Stone, who brought me your letter on Saturday, is still suffering from Neurasthenia, or that form of exhaustion of nerve-force which follows too constant application, complicated with insidious malarial influences.

This malarial disturbance affect the activity of the functions of the liver almost invariably, and I find it so likewise here.

Pressure of the top and back of the head, with occasional sick-headaches are still troublesome, and in view of all the circumstances, I am decidedly of the opinion that it would be inadvisable for her to return, at present, to any active missionary work, where malaria exist especially.

After passing a Winter in our cold Winter climate, (but I do not advise Boston) where she will encounter an equable bracing cold temperature, it will be time to reconsider the question of future work.

It has appeared to me that she has failed to obtain the whole advantage of her vacation thus far owing to her continued working, and so far as my advice is

Ellen M. Stone,

Westmoreland, Aug. 10, 1878

Recd Aug. 12

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Westmoreland, N. H.,
Aug. 10, 1878.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.;

My dear Sir;

Please accept my thanks for the kindness of your letter informing me of the action of the Board concerning me. It was awaiting our arrival here on Saturday last. I find myself able to acquiesce fully in the decision of the Committee that I shall go to Samokov, as being without doubt the place to which the Lord of the Harvest has assigned me.

Since the Congregationalist of this week has made the matter public (it must have learned of it in the House), and has also announced ~~that~~ we to "go in the early autumn," it was

be well for me to know when the Bonds expect to leave, and if the Board intends me to accompany them. A file of Mrs. Locke's letters is affording me considerable insight into the condition of affairs at Samokov, and the progress made there during their residence in the place.

This week's rest here in Mrs. Locke's home encourages me to expect to make rapid gains during the remainder of the month. I am resting vigorously.

In view of the shortness of the time until the early autumn, would you suggest anything which I might be doing by way of preparation, before returning home, the last of this month?

Yours Very Truly,

Ellen M. Stone.

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 13, 1880.

Rev. N. G. Clarke, D.D.;

My dear Sir;

Yesterday morning we accompanied Rev. J. H. House and family about ten miles upon their journey toward America, and came back to take up our work again, feeling greatly weakened by their departure, and knowing that we shall greatly miss the comfort and strength of their presence. But it was clear that the time had come for this family to take a rest, and in some way our Master will provide for the needs of this part of His vineyard. Mr. House's record, during the eight years of his life here, should give him comfort during all the days of his separation from it. He loves the work and the people, and the people love him; his wife is one with him. The three buildings which he has erected during the last years and which he leaves nearly completed,— the theological school, the church, and the new missionary house — testify to the eye his skill in a line for which he had had no special training. He has succeeded in all work to which he has set his hand, and has been an intense worker. I think that he will without doubt be sought after in America as a speaker, but you will see that he must have opportunities for rest.

On Friday, we welcomed back Rev. W. E. Locke and family, safe and well, after their restful sojourn in America. They received word in London of Mr. House's intended departure, and made all speed thence, overland, to Samokov. Mr. Locke has taken up the oversight of the buildings already. Mr. Clarke hopes to occupy the new house in two weeks, and then the Lockes will take their former house. Meanwhile, they are our guests, Miss Maltbie's and mine.

Mr. Belden has taken up three or four classes in ~~En~~ the theological school, and his teaching will give an impetus to the study of English there which, it is my opinion, will do much to satisfy the longing of some of the students to go to England or America. Another native, Mr. Cechanoff, has been secured to assist, as Mr. Ivanoff will soon leave to attend to his duties as a member of the Bulgarian Assembly. Mr. Clarke is not well, and feels a great pressure of responsibility consequent upon the departure of Mr. House, to whom he had become greatly endeared. But I hope that as matters become adjusted, the pressure will lighten; surely he will find grace sufficient to his need. Mrs. Clarke's health seems to be somewhat improved, but the greatest care is indispensable that she is not subjected to too much strain.

To return to Mr. Beldin for a moment. It gives us very real satisfaction to see that he and his family seem to be happy in their home and work among us. They feel that they are strangers in a strange land; yet are much happier, they say, than they ever were in Consple. — Mr. & Mrs. Bond and their little son came up from Philippopolis to attend the dedication of the church last Sabbath. They are well, and reported the Marshes likewise, the latter being absent from home touring. Some one else will write you about the dedication, I believe. It was a glad day to us all.

Now as for ourselves. My associate calls herself pretty well, but looks more delicate than I like to see her. The care of the school weighs upon her. You are aware that we have now but one assistant teacher, and she with only a year's previous experience. Our 36 girls seem to be very happy, and there is much enthusiasm over the study of English. I believe in the Christian character of the school, and know that at least 6 more of its pupils would have united with the church last year, but that we wished them to be tested by life at home during the vacation. The testimony as to all of them during

Samokov. Oct. 13. 1880

Rec'd Nov. 5

their absence. This morning a new full pay scholar has been brought to us by ~~th~~ a member of the city council, sent by the President of the Bulgarian Assembly, who himself came and arranged for her coming. The time is no longer when the chief among the people feared to send their sons and daughters to the Protestants for an education.

To refer again to the estate adjoining our premises upon the right. I wrote you of it, and of our desire to purchase it, and your reply to our request for an appropriation awaited our return from Prague. I beg your pardon for the long delay in answering. The reason is that I have not known what to say. You ask for information. My report quoted to you your own words upon the subject, which I thought explained the change. Miss Maltbie & I are of the same opinion of the advisability of having our Primary Department in a separate building, and enlarged to admit as many as desire to come to it, a self-supporting school, like the "little school" at Conple., under the auspices of the Home teachers. — The owners of the estate adjoining ours, are now desirous to sell, and we should be very glad to get it, even should the Mission deem it best to put it to some other use than our primary department. The end of our house is only eighteen or 20 feet from the wall bounding our premises upon the right, and the house on that land is even nearer to the wall than ours is, so it is quite an item with us who our neighbors are to be. Probably the time will never come again when it can be had so cheaply, if at any price. With sincere regards to yourself and your associates, Very Truly Yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

It is not a good investment of money to expend it in repairs upon this ancient structure. Then too when Mr. House returns he must find a comfortable house awaiting him. He who has built so thoroughly and so tastefully for others as he built the school-building, church, and the missionary house occupied by Mr. Clarke, ought not again to enter the old Turkish house which his little family has quite outgrown. But I'm sure that all will be made right for him and for his before they have need to live here again.

The piano which Dr. Langworthy so kindly interested himself to procure for us, has not yet arrived, though it is billed with Dr. Kingsbury's boxes. We are very thankful to you for your kindness in helping to procure the instrument for our school. We believe that it has a good work to accomplish here. Miss Graves is already giving the music lessons. She is a sweet, brave girl, whom all love, instinctively. We are very thankful to the Board for all their endeavors to supply the great need of this station, and to God, that He gave them such

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
May 22, 1881.

My dear Dr. Clark;

Miss Ellen M. Stone
Rec'd June 18

As I look up into your face, not a foot distant from me, I find it difficult to realize that you are in America, and that America is far from Samokov. It is your pictured face which puts me under the delusion of fancying you near just now — the photograph which you gave to Miss Graves. It must be very lifelike, for it fills me with the impression that I have just seen you and talked with you. Miss Graves has it in a little card-holder, and has just loaned it to me, to be company for me, a little while, and I can assure you that it is a very real pleasure which this sense of your nearness brings. Your face seems to

success in their search. — I am sure that none of us approve of Mr. House's rel
this fall. The work needs him continually, but not until he is well enough

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Samokov, Oct 13

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me unchanged since I last looked upon it in London, more than two and a half years ago, but hair and beard have whitened somewhat, under time's hand.

This is the second Sabbath since Dr. Kingsbury and his family, with Miss Graves, reached Samokov. I can assure you, with all my heart, that every one of us is very thankful for them. They will be, under God, a powerful addition to the Bulgarian Mission and especially to this Station where they live. They have blessed us already. We could not realize, until this fresh and vigorous accession to our numbers, how much we miss the influence, the stimulus of Christian associations in the church. Last Sabbath afternoon, the regular Bulgarian prayer meeting, in the church, was followed by an

back to America, to leave the work, will have ceased to be agitated. —

[illegible] Annual Meeting; but since it could not be, we must wait.

[illegible]

English prayer-meeting, led by Dr. Kingsbury, and as he read the Scriptures and commented upon the subject in his tenderly fervid manner, did not our hearts melt within us, and the tears in our eyes show what a multitude of diverse chords in our souls responded to the touch of the Master, through this servant of His? It was good to be there! It was wonderfully nearer home than the pleasant church ever seemed to me before.

Miss Graves and the Doctor are deep in their Bulgarian primers, as well as in unpacking their boxes. They go into the house which Mr. House formerly occupied, and will make the best of it until a new one can be provided. There is no question in the minds of any of us here that this old, delapidated house must be replaced by a new one.

year to our Annual Meeting; but since it could not be, we must wait.
Our Prince will visit this city ~~next~~ Friday and Saturday; "Something is always happ

English prayer-meeting, led by Dr.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
June 22, 1881.

To the Gentlemen of the Prudential Committee of the American Board:—

In accordance with the custom of presenting the reason for asking an increase of salary, I would say that it is wholly on account of my present financial standing, which is not less deplorable to me than it is surprising. In the hope to keep out of indebtedness to you, should I ever succeed in standing square again upon your books, I have asked the increase from £80 to £95 Turkish.

With extreme regret for the situation,
I am, Yours Truly,
Ellen M. Stone.

Samokov, Bulg., Nov. 11, 1881.

To Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Sec. of the Am. Board;

My dear Sir,

Two neglected duties relative to yourself, confront me. The first is to acknowledge your very kind letter of July 22. I fear that I cannot answer it satisfactorily for no one was more amazed than I at my financial standing at the close of our Mission year. The only explanation that I can even guess at for the deficiency is that being little experienced in accounts, and having no taste for them, and being so much pressed with other duties, I have not given that time and attention to the school accounts, which are a part of my work, which accuracy required, and so have failed to keep them in full. I have not undertaken "the support of several scholars," but have aided some as I thought my salary would permit me. I have also purchased some things for school use, and allowed them to remain upon my account. One thing I feel sure of: the deficiency has not been caused by extravagant personal expenditures. The large balance remaining to the credit of the school seems to me to show clearly that it was owing to lack of sufficient care on my part. According to the rules of the ~~school~~ Board, all moneys which I draw for the school are charged to me, but I did not dream that my salary and whatever other sums might be credited to my account, would not cover whatever deficiency might arise. Of course, this is unbusinesslike, and the result mortifies me very much. I thought to carry the burden, and to try in one way and another to cancel my indebtedness to the Board; but when each of the gentlemen of this station, and Mr. Baird of Monastir, assured me that that would be a hopeless endeavor, and urged me to allow them to request that the debt be canceled, I yielded, though sorely against my inclinations. The only way that I can see to reduce my expenses is to give up keeping my horse - "Cato" - and I can't quite make up my mind to that, since the children in my home Sabbath school bought him, to be used by me. But I am trying to be a better accountant this year, and if again I fail, some one else must take that work, and let me give my time and strength to other work.

Many thanks to you, Dr. Clark, for your kind wishes concerning the journey which you thought I took to Vienna; but did you really think that I would take a trip like that, at the expense of the Board, when I was in debt to its Treasury?

No. The mission passed their vote asking an appropriation for our vacation, without consulting Miss Maltbie or myself; this in the kindness of their hearts. But I was very glad to accept an invitation from Mr. & Mrs. Marsh to go with them into the Philippopolis field, and spend some time touring. Owing however to sickness - Mr. Marsh himself, his children, and when we were actually out among the villages, of myself also, from the chills and fever of the country, our plans for touring were interfered with, and Mr. Marsh was compelled to hasten back with me to Samokov. I have not yet recovered from the fever, as I was reminded by a strong attack yesterday. It was while yet confined to my room, that your letter came, and school re-opening soon after, I have been able to give but little time or strength to letter-writing. This is the reason for the delay in answering your kind note.

Though the result of my summer journey was so hard for me, I shall never regret it, as I believe that the Lord used my presence and influence with them, to help two of our girls, who had just graduated, to resist the strong temptations to which they were subjected by their own families - to become teachers in the public schools for the sake of the position and the higher remuneration which they would receive. But the girls were able to stand firmly by the convictions of their own consciences, and to-day one is the teacher of the Yamboul school, and the other, of our Primary Department. I would willingly suffer from fever daily, even as acutely as I suffered yesterday, could the labors which induced the fever, but help to inspire these dear souls to faithfulness.

I said in beginning that there were two neglected duties. The second is concerning affairs in Philippopolis. I am aware that the Committee to whom the case was referred, has taken its action, and has communicated the same to the parties concerned. The whole matter has been dismissed from your mind, perhaps, as finished. Yet even if it be so, Dr. Clark, I must write once for all, or continue to feel as I have felt ever since our Annual Meeting, that I have not done my duty in this matter. It is true that my experience in mission life has been brief, therefore I will speak chiefly of what I have learned during the past two years. It should be mentioned to their credit, that my associates here were very reticent touching Mrs. Mumford and her affairs, leaving me to learn about her from others. I knew before leaving America ~~that~~ there had been trouble concerning her, but what the nature of the trouble was I learned first from Rev. Mr. Hitchcock of Constantinople, who was a delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Mission, held at Phil. the first spring after my arrival. Mrs. Mumford invited him to her house to tea, and then told him her story, with so much effect that he talked with me about it in the evening, and said that he felt that Mrs. Mumford had been very unjustly dealt with by the missionaries. Afterwards he wrote to Mr. Marsh, and if I mistake not, to yourself also. When I saw him more than a year later, he inquired concerning her welfare, and I told him some facts of recent occurrences, which seemed to remind him that there were two sides to this as to every story. At the time of our second Annual Meeting, held in Samokov, a year ago last spring, I received further specific enlightenment as to the history of the case, from Rev. E. W. Jenney. Moved apparently wholly by the recital of what he stated to be facts, he affirmed and re-affirmed in his positive manner, that if the Board were to send Mr. Bond to Monastir, his resignation, (Mr. Jenney's) would be at the same time in the hands of the Prudential Committee. The assertion struck me with great surprise, being wholly without qualification. The next day, Mr. Jenney gave me another surprise: Mr. Marsh made some statements as to his relations with his associate, and when the Chairman (pro tem.) Dr. Riggs, asked the mission what advice they would give for the relief of these two brethren, no one said a word. Later, objection was made to the form in which Dr. Riggs invited discussion upon the question. But I expected from Mr. Jenney's voluntary and unhesitating assertion of his conviction, the evening previous, advice which would be decided, as showing his position. His conduct and his correspondence since that time have been wholly irreconcilable, to my mind, with the declaration of his feeling which he made to me. But enough for this part of the subject. I hasten lest I may not have time, (fighting as I am a second attack of fever.) to finish this writing which is to me a sacred duty.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond and their children were my first friends among the missionaries to the Bulgarians. My Mother commended me to Mrs. Bond's care, and until last Christmas, I called her "Mother Bond". On my visit to Phil. then, being cognizant of some things which were then done, my feelings underwent such a change that since this time it has not been the instinct of my heart to address this title to her. During our six weeks journey from Boston, Mr. & Mrs. Bond had ample opportunity to impress my mind favorably or the reverse, concerning those among whom I was to live. Consciously or unconsciously they induced in me such a state of mind that I shrank from going on to Samokov, and even regretted the arrival of Mr. Locke to conduct me thither. It was not by any means ~~whall~~ merely the natural dread of losing my traveling companions, but it was that I should find the people in Samokov such that "no woman of spirit" could live with them, as Mr. Bond had once declared to me. But the experience of living with them has wholly removed any such impression of Messrs. Clarke, Locke, and House, ~~with~~ in whom, although I have had decided difference of opinion with them, I have unreserved confidence that they seek only to aid us in all our plans for the school, so far as they can consistently do so.

"Comparisons are odious," and in this case I wish to make none between brethren, beyond what are required in stating a few more facts. I have had the opportunity of touring with both Mr. Bond and Mr. Marsh, and could not fail to see which was the man who is continually on the alert to serve the cause of his Master, esteeming nothing as sacrifice if he could but effect some good to the cause to which he gives his life. It has been owing entirely to Mr. Marsh's influence that I have been able twice during the past year, to visit ~~of~~ our Bible-women and teachers in the Philippopolis field;

Mr. Bond was very reluctant to permit me to go; but we feel that it is important that our school, and its teachers should be better known in the region from which so many of our scholars come. Should anything transpire by which Mr. Bond would be left alone in that field, or with an associate who fully sympathizes with him, we feel that our opportunities of usefulness in that direction, where are some of the oldest and strongest stations of the Board, would be very much curtailed, if not quite cut off. As I wrote last week to Mr. Marsh our thanks for his endeavors in securing pupils for our school this year, my conscience reproaches me that I have never expressed also to you my sense of the value of his untiring efforts in behalf of the school. It is to him that we teachers always turn for advice in locating our teachers and Bible-women; it is to him that they turn for advice and encouragement; it is ~~to~~ he who arranges for the coming and return of our girls, and to whom almost without exception, so far as I am informed, applications from his portion of the field, ~~applications~~ for admission to the school, are made. Of the large number of scholars from the Philippopolis field, at present with us, and who constitute the majority of the most reliable elements in the school, I do not know of one whom Mr Marsh has not been instrumental in bringing hither. On the other hand, I must say in truth that the only instance in which I have known of Mr. Bond's expressing any interest in scholars for this school this year, was a sentence in a letter written to Mr. Locke, in which he complained that a girl from Kialudere, a station of the Am. Board, with a village school there supported by its funds, had come to us, notwithstanding she had been previously "promised to Mrs. Mumford." I know only his assertion as to this, but wondered very much that a missionary of the Board should find fault with his associate because a girl who had ~~been~~ thus far received her education at the Board's expence, should continue in a school of the Board, being sent by her church. But one other statement on this point: Since the action of the Committee in Boston was communicated to Mr. Marsh, and he has felt compelled to withdraw from mission work, in some measure, we have been forced to feel how embarrassing our position will be. We have *depended* upon Mr. Marsh. We have known that he was wholly true. During the last few weeks we have desired to confer with Philippopolis Station relative to placing a Bible woman, and we have been wholly unable to persuade ourselves to confer with Mr. Bond about it. Rightly or wrongly, Miss Maltbie and I have the same distrust, knowing that the relations between his family and Mrs. Mumford are so intimate that our girls or any of the helpers passing through Phil., ~~are more~~ and stopping at Mr. Bond's, are more than likely to be brought under Mrs. Mumford's influence, and the result is almost invariably unhappy.

I believe that this is the only time when I have addressed to you, or to any one in America, a word upon this subject. Now I beg leave most respectfully to submit to you my conviction that the former course of action of the Prudential Committee was the right course, and that a mistake was made when that action was overturned. It does not seem to me that the testimony of one man, Mr. Smith, and he a stranger to the history of the case, should have been permitted weight against the accumulated testimony of those who have lived with all parties, and know whereof they speak. (It is possible that his words had not such weight; I judge only from your own statement that the Committee would wait to confer with him before making up their decision.) It also seems to me wrong that the gentlemen in Constantinople, who have not to live with the trouble, and know it only from the outside, should take such active measures relative thereto.

I could wish that Mr. D. L. Moody could understand what he is doing in receiving into his school at Northfield, one of Mrs. Mumford's pupils, who expects to leave Philippopolis about Christmas. She has a sister in our first class, to graduate next July, and a brother in the Boys' School. She will be the first girl who has been sent to America or England from a Protestant school in Bulgaria, and knowing how the American fever rages among the young men, we can but fear the spirit of discontent which will be engendered among the girls when the going of one of them shall have opened the way for others. Of course we cannot communicate with Mr. Moody on this matter without being exposed to the charge of opposing Mrs. Mumford's measures, but I feel that if he understood the influence which this case will have upon the mission schools, and so upon a portion of the work in Bulgaria, he would reconsider the assent which he has given to receive this girl.

I have written very much at length, Dr. Clarke, and very freely, and trust to your indulgence to have patience with me. The fever had its own way with me again last night, so this letter is compelled to wait till Saturday's mail, but I hope that Quinine has broken its (the fever) force, for this time. Our school numbers 52 pupils, beside twenty-nine in the Primary Department, which seems to be steadily growing in favor in the community. It is a help to our school in reducing the number of classes.

With cordial regard to Mrs. Clark and to your associates - Drs. Alden, Means, & Strong, Mr. Ward and Mr. Hutchins,

I am,

Very Truly Yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Samokov, Nov. 11, 1881

Rec'd Dec. 8

in this case. Our widowed friend did not reach Samokov without receiving a letter which offered to her a situation in the school at Philippopolis. Mrs. Mumford had written it some time before, and left it in the hands of a friend in Pazardjik, to be given to Mrs. Tenev, in case of her husband's death. But Mrs. Tenev seemed not in the least inclined to accept this offer. Failing in this direction, Mrs. Mumford is trying, by every means in her power, to secure for next year, one of our graduates of last year, who is at present the teacher of our Primary Department. Without consulting us as to what may be our expectations with reference to her for another year, she has stirred up this teacher's father to feel great interest in her work, and to desire to help her "because

Miss Stone

Samokov, Mch. 11, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clarke,

My dear Sir,

It has been on my mind for some time to write briefly to you, even at the risk of seeming to concern myself with what is not directly my business. You desire to be kept as closely informed of the working of affairs in all the mission stations of the Board, as may be, that you may be guided in your counsels.

I have been informed that you talked with Mrs. Mumford before her return to Bulgaria, telling her that it would be impossible for her to conduct her work here without interfering with the work of the mission. You have known something of how true your warning proved, in not a few instances in the past. It is just as true as ever to-day. Mrs. Mumford is making persistent efforts to secure one of the graduates of this school for an assistant in her school; but she will not make an application to us in an open, honorable way. The last day of December a young helper, who had been a preacher for a little more than two years, died. His wife graduated from this school in July 1879. Providentially now, we can see Dr. Kingsbury and one of the Bulgarian teachers in the Boys' School, started for the village in which this helper lived, so that they were there for his funeral although not there at the time of his death. On receiving a telegram of the death of her husband, we at once telegraphed to our former pupil to return to us, with the Doctor and his companion. She did so, and has remained assisting us in the school. Mr. Bond started for the village in which she and her husband lived, when he heard that the helper was near to death, but the heavy snow prevented him from pushing his way to the village. He wrote subsequently that he purposed to take the widow home with him, but "that the teachers got ahead of him." Anything that has even a look of such a thing as his words intimate, is exceedingly repugnant to me; yet it is true that we cannot ignore the workings of that other school in our calculations and plans. For it is too likely that advantage will be taken of any circumstance, as was done came seeking at their hands!

Mr. & Mrs. Bond's course of warm sympathy and close friendship with Mrs. Mumford have done very much to blind the eyes of Bulgarian Christians, and make them feel, as they say, ~~that~~ any other course than ~~that~~ pursued by Mr. & Mrs. Bond is actuated by motives of personal enmity to Mrs. Mumford and her work. Bear with me in an allusion to the case of our brethren in Phil. When the first decision of the Committee came, Mr. & Mrs. March, although they felt that they could not abide by it, made no appeal whatever of their case to the native Christians, but communicated only with their missionary associates. When word came of the re-consideration, they were just as quiet. the native Christians knew nothing from them, but they very soon were made aware of the state of affairs, and then there she has so little help and the other missionaries have so many helpers." Mrs. Mumford has placed this man under obligations to her by taking his son into her school, and by securing for him a place in America, where he will be placed in school, whenever his parents choose to send him. Though we know these things, we are yet puzzled to understand the reason why the father should be so anxious to take his daughter from the school in which she was a scholar six years, and now is a valued teacher, with such advantages as she could not have elsewhere. I do not think his daughter will be moved, for she understands what most of the Bulgarian Christians do not, that the work is not all one, because the younger work seeks dishonorably

such may [illegible] of [illegible] so soon
to enter into the labors of the older. Mrs. Mumford understands how to satisfy the prejudices of the people, in a great degree. She promotes the marriages of her pupils, and she has begun to sends the most advanced of them to America. One has already reached there, we suppose, as she sailed from Liverpool, Feb. 25, to enter Mr. Moody's school at Northfield. This girl should have been Mrs. Mumford's assistant, on completing her course, in a few months; but her teacher sends her away, and raises a deal of sympathy for herself that she has no Bulgarian helpers. A lady has just arrived from England to be Mrs. M.'s associate. All this is embarrassing and vexatious to us, but there seems to be no help for it.

One of the direct results of

* I have just now learned his name, an hour since writing the

the sending of this girl by Mrs. Mumford to America, is the stirring up of a burning desire on the part of some of our graduates to be, next June, to try every means in their power and in the power of their Bulgarian relatives and friends now in America, to go thither themselves. They correspond especially with one Demyan Shopoff, who is in an academy at Easthampton, Mass., and with one Marin D. Dalchoff,* ~~whose last name I do not know~~, ~~but~~ who attends school in St. Johnsbury, Vt. I feel very strongly about the going of these girls to England or to America, as losing them to the work among their country-women, and shutting them out from the sphere of their highest usefulness. I would I knew what cord to touch, what word to say that would teach American Christians what they are doing in ~~it~~ receiving and supporting the young Bulgarians who

* I have just now learned his name, an hour since writing the above.

– to fully state the case, perhaps I should add that the feelings which Mr. & Mrs. Bond manifest toward all of us in Samokov, save Dr. Kingsbury and his family, has filled us with deep pain. They wrote us in the coldest way, and then ceased all communication with us beyond that required the merest official duties. They hold us in some measure responsible for the change in the judgment of the Committee.

E. M. S.

was a storm of indignation. But you should not think that the Bulgarians were wholly self-moved in these demonstrations. After the first action of the Prudential Committee was known, Mrs. Bond expressed her conviction that the Committee would not be allowed to do them such an injustice. Then ~~when~~ since the second action came, she laments the cruelty which "drives" them out from their loved people. The Bulgarians themselves said, when they summoned Mr. Marsh before one of their indignation meetings, to tell them ~~that~~ why Mr. Bond was to go to Monastir, ~~that~~ they had heard one side from Mrs. Bond, and they wished to hear Mr. Marsh. As you probably know, Mr. Marsh gave them no information beyond telling them that the stationing of missionaries was the work of the Am. Board, in conjunction with the mission, and was a work in which the native Christians are not consulted. That the Board acted for the interests of the work in general, and not merely for individual preferences. It seems to me but just that you should not be left to believe that the demonstrations on the part of the native Christians were spontaneous and unprovoked. It is my full conviction that, had Mr & Mrs. Bond accepted the decision of the committee as the expression of the will of God for them, as over and over again Mr. Bond declared at our last Annual Meeting he should do, there would have been no such stirring up of bad feelings on the part of the natives. I would not imply that there would not be real and deep sorrow at parting with them; there would be; but the hatred and anger and bad words and strife would not have been. Now it is and has been and it will be, for a long time to come, exceedingly difficult for Mr. & Mrs. Marsh to bear themselves among some of the Protestant friends in Phil., but they show no disposition to evade the unpleasantness, conscious of their integrity before God and men.

I have not written this letter upon "Mission Paper", Dr. Clark, because it is private to you, and states my own feelings, and no one else is responsible for this expression. Yet I may say that my associate is in full accord with it, and it is in the line with what Mr. Locke and Mr. Clarke avow as their convictions.

With affectionate regards to Mrs. Clark, I am
Very Truly Yours, Ellen M. Stone

and its advantages for themselves, my heart craves increasingly their fitness in a knowledge of their own people and of their language, which they have at their command. They will not take up the work, I cannot, never can, with the full measure of their fitness. If only, as your letter to Miss Maltbie said, God's Spirit would touch their hearts, and raise up a Paul among this people! It seems as though the time must soon come when the seed sown in the past quarter of a century must bring forth an abundant harvest. May God speed the day!

There seems to be a stirring in the countries about us and also internally in Bulgaria. If it be of serious import or not, we cannot now know, but for months my soul has been impressed with the conviction that the time

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Samokov, Mch. 14, '82.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.;
For. Sec. A. B. C. F. M.;

My dear Dr. Clark,

Your note of Feb. 15 came yesterday morning. With all my heart I thank you for your great kindness in writing it. I would not be lacking in ~~kind~~ full appreciation of the kindness of the Prudential Committee in their action for my financial relief. I am most deeply grateful to them for it. But to your personal influence, I am persuaded, I owe very much of this result. Please know that as grateful as water to a thirsty soul, and better than cordial to a sometimes fainting and discouraged one, are your kind words expressing your feeling that the labor is not all in vain. Is there anything worse than this malaria to make me despondent? Or is there anything more provocative of despondency than to see those upon whom the most labor has been expended, and seemingly the most satisfactorily expended, turning from their opportunities at home, selfishly to seek more for themselves? But shame overcomes me that I allow myself in such moods and in such expressions, for one has truly said "What have we to do with discouragement?" The work is not ours, it is the Lord's.

Possibly you may remember that before I left home, I expressed my hope that my work might be an open, evangelical work, rather than in a school. The desire does not in the least abate.

I love to teach, and the work here is absorbing, yet always the feeling is present with me—"This ought not to be my work." I love to travel, native carriage or horseback is nothing to me after the present weariness is passed, and God has given me digestion and powers of sleeping which adapt themselves to almost any circumstances, so that what would be insurmountable hardships to some of our number, are very slight discomforts to me. It is all right for me to be in the school now, I believe, but when the time comes when I may be led out, it will be a welcome time. I'm sure you will not imagine that there can be any unpleasantness in my relations here, to prompt such a desire, for it was in my heart before you, Dr. Clark, ever mentioned Samokov to me. Our Bulgarian girls and boys long after America to be driven out from their people and the work which they love, and for no reason whatsoever. In this way she has worked upon the feelings of some until they have been roused to be willing to attempt anything in their behalf.

The Board will surely judge for itself if this be accepting its judgment; if this be the execution of the purposes expressed by Mr. Bond in our last Annual Meetings, which drew out such expressions of approbation for him from Dr. Isaac Bliss and Mr. Smith and Dr. Byington.

But I desist, and if you feel am mixing myself in a work which is not laid upon me, I pray you tell me, Dr. Clark. I speak freely of it to you, and have mentioned some of these facts to Mr. House, and may do so to Mr. Pedden, for they are cognizant of it all. But I do not speak of it beyond, save as occasionally it comes up here in our

missionary circle. — Once again thanking you for your unwearied kindness to me, not only in the matter of the debt, but in many other[s] as the piano, for example, believe me with heartfelt regard, Yours truly, must be crowded with work, for working-time here will be short. If overturnings come, they will but hasten the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.

Yesterday I learned for the first time that Miss Spooner is to go to Dakotah. It is a very real disappointment to me, but I know that it must be well that it is to be so. I am glad for the Indians, but I *did* want to see her. Mr. Richardson will not come either, this year.

Now permit a note to be added to what I wrote last Saturday concerning affairs at Philippopolis. It was only yesterday that we learned how affairs stood there. Some of the brethren here thought that "the storm had blown over," but some of us distrusted the quiet as but the portentous lull during which the storm gathered greater force. You may already know all of the particulars, but even at the risk of repeating, I mention a few facts. There is an anxiety in my mind lest the Committee may be lead to believe that that has transpired, which Dr. Byington predicted at our Annual Meeting would transpire — a great stirring up, and perhaps an alienation of the native Christians. But if this shall result, it shall not have been because the people have been wholly self-moved in the matter, for indeed they have been urgently stirred up to take some action. You have perhaps received the petition from Phil. signed by Bulgarian Christians, praying that Mr. Bond be not removed. The story of that petition is this, as told by Mrs. Tonjoroff, the English wife of the preacher in Phil. She says that she and her husband knew nothing of the protest until it had been drawn up and signed by about thirty men and women. That then it was brought to Pastor Tonjoroff, with the request that he would head the list with his name. This amid tears and threats on the part of those who presented it, and taunts that he was afraid of the Board, he persistently refused to do, saying, as he has done from the first "This is none of our business." It is said that the Protest is skillfully drawn up, but whether by Mr. Yoffchoff, who is again Mrs. Mumford's assistant, or not, we are not informed. Mrs. Tonjoroff says that she knows of Mrs. Baird's visiting many of the people, and with crying lamenting that she and her family are

Chelsea, May 6, 1882.

Rec'd May 9.

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Chelsea, Mass.,
May 6, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., For. Secretary, Am. Bd.,

My dear Dr. Clark;

In answer to the question concerning the amount which I shall need to receive from the treasury of the Board per month, during my stay in America, I would name Twenty-Five Dollars-($25-). Should this sum meet your approbation, it would oblige me very much if you could take the trouble to enclose it to-day, for May, and send it to the me, care of Mr. C. A. Stone, 131-137 Washington St., Boston.

My head has not allowed me to write nor to think to any

purpose this week, owing
to the taking of Quinine,
but I am giving it a full
trial, and expect very soon
to be quite well.

With grateful regards to
you and to your associates,

Yours Sincerely,

Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone

Over

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Chelsea, May 28, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
For. Secretary of Am. Board,
Dear Dr. Clark,

Your note of Mch. 15, sent to me at Samokov, ~~and~~ has been returned, and I herewith acknowledge its receipt. It is a complete surprise to me, and fills me with gratitude for your personal kindness in my behalf, and also ~~with~~ for the great kindness of the Prudential Committee to me. It is a painful mortification to stand before this body and yourself, as a delinquent, but the consciousness helps me, that there has been no loss to the school, despite the bad showing of my books against myself. It is a great disappointment to me to have failed ~~in~~ of accuracy in this department of the work which was laid upon me.

Once more allow me to thank you for the expression of your sympathy in this which has been and is a trial to me beyond my power to describe. Do you think that I am altogether visionary in hoping that my work, in large measure, in the future, may be ~~more~~ in touring and outside work, rather than so constantly in the school?

Yours most sincerely,
Ellen M. Stone.

Care C. A. Stone, (Leopold Morse & Co.)
131–137 Washington St.,
Boston.

I am sorry to use these seemingly hard words against a Bulgarian who professes to be a brother in Christ, but I believe that his future good, and the welfare of the work in Bulgaria, so far as he can influence it, demands it. He was assigned to accompany me in my first tour, and from that time, when he took no Bible or hymn-book with him, although we was to pass a Sabbath in a village, and therefore should have opportunity for a service, — until he left the country, my opinion of him was compelled to be less and less favorable. He was the cause of temptation to some of our graduates of last year, to prove unfaithful to their promises to fulfill their obligations to the Mission, — and it was ~~the~~ my anxiety consequent upon his influence in this direction, which in great measure prepared the way for the attack of fever which at that time seized me. I know about him.

Very Truly Yours, Ellen M. Stone.

I send this for your information – Please return
N.G.C.

Chelsea, Aug. 5, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.,

For. Secretary of Am. Board,

My dear Dr. Clarke,

I am very glad to learn from Miss Spooner of her destination to Monastir. I believe that her life there will justify the wisdom of this action, to the Committee.

In a letter received from Mrs. Locke yesterday, she says that you have written to Samokov, inquiring as to one of the students now in America – Zhelazkoff, by name, who seeks help from the Board to return to Bulgaria. She does not dwell upon the subject, saying only that as Mr. Clarke and I are both here, she thinks that we can tell you whatever you may wish to know. This statement of Mrs. Locke's is the cause of my writing to you, unasked, relative to this subject.

I have been obliged to know considerable about this young man Zhelazkoff, and Miss Maltbie as well as myself felt much relieved when he left the country last fall. My judgment is that there can be shown no reason strong enough to justify the American Board, or any Christian people in America, to help him in the least in an endeavor to return to Bulgaria. He was once suspended from his school, and after being re-instated, largely through the good offices of Mr. Marsh, yet, notwithstanding he ranked well in scholarship - he manifested such a lack of truthfulness and common honesty that even Mr. Marsh became convinced last fall that, this man was not worthy to be a student in the matter, with Dr. Adams concurrence,

theological school, and the Trustees took action to exclude him from further membership therein. Then he came to America, as I understand the case, leaving his obligations to the school disregarded. If he has become a true Christian, while in this country, surely it cannot make him a less earnest worker among his people, if he shall be left to his own resources to supply the means of returning to the country which he was so anxious to leave. He is one of those young men who has not learned to deny himself for the advancement of Christ's work, but uses the money of the Board for what seem to be extravagant personal expenditures in dress and traveling. I think there is some good in this man, as well as ability but it needs hard trial to bring it out from under ~~the~~ over-weening self-conceit which covers it.

with Dr. Adams' concurrence, you will permit me to give you my ~~the~~ reasons for desiring so much to go. You refer to your desire that my health shall permit me to resume my work in Bulgaria as soon as possible. In this desire I am fully with you, and it is because I cannot have ~~that~~ restfulness of mind, when at my home, because of anxieties and worries which press upon me there, ~~that~~ I am trying this experience of being away from home. I have felt ~~that~~ I could not leave my Mother a day, while in this country, but I became convinced that it was necessary for me to do so, if I am to have a [illegible] chance to rest fully. You may not know that I am passionately fond of traveling, so ~~that~~ the bodily wearisomeness and annoyance of being on rail or steamer ~~is~~ are reduced to the minimum, in my case, and the very anticipation of a trip is an inspiration and tonic to me.

Ann Street —

Believe me, D
Clark, with s
cerest regard
Yours truly,
Ellen M

Wells River, Vt.,
Sept. 15, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.;
Foreign Secretary Am. B'd.;

Dear Dr. Clark;

Your favor of the 9th inst., was awaiting my arrival here last evening, having been forwarded by my brother.

After watching the little group of departing friends, who looked down upon us from the deck of the City of Rome — Mr. & Mrs. Sleeper, Miss Spooner, and Mr. Dwight's young daughters — sail away down the Harbor, my former pastor and Miss Spooner's, Rev. A. P. Foster, took me to his home in Jersey City, where I stayed very quietly with his widowed Mother and sister until Monday afternoon. From that time till I took the train yesterday morning for Wells River, I remained very quiet, making but ~~very~~ few calls, and those to relieve my conscience of a weight. Now I propose to remain a week among three of these quiet New England homes, and fulfill my promise to Dr. Kingsbury and his wife and Miss Graves, to look into the faces of their own, for them. If it blesses them as much as it blesses me, I am sure that even my most solicitous friends will see only advantage in this trip.

Thank you, Dr. Clark, for your kind offer to apply for a place for me in Portland, but I have already done so for

myself, realizing as soon as I had
broached the matter to you,
that doing so was troubling
you needlessly. I have not re-
ceived Mr. Clarke's response, but
doubtless that will come in due
time.

I can but say frankly, Dr.
Clark, that the decision which
you communicate to me, rela-
tive to my going West, is
both a surprise and a disap-
pointment to me. I have realized
such a conscious improvement
in my physical condition,
and so mentally, and spiritually
during the past months,
also, that I have planned with
some definiteness for the trip,
confidently expecting your approv-
al. Although you write me so
decidedly of your settlement of the

But these ~~is~~ not ~~the~~ indeed the prime reasons for my desire to go West. Miss Maltbie in Samokov has no expectation of seeing her aged father – 87 years old – again; and she begged me to see him for her, and I promised her to do so surely. My father's only surviving brother has died, since my return, longing to see me, – because my trip to the West was delayed. Miss Maltbie's father and one sister live in Saybrook, O. When Mrs. Case of Chicago, Illinois, wrote me about some meetings, which she wished me to attend, in the autumn, I welcomed the proposition as opening the way for me to fulfill my promise to Miss Maltbie, and at the same time to meet many Christian women who are deeply interested in the Samokov school. Then Mrs. M. D. Ely of Elyria, O., has twice written me desiring my promise to be at the meeting of the Ohio State Branch, and also at the meeting of the Board of the Interior. I am the more anxious to attend these meetings because our school was so long almost entirely under the care and support of this Board, — Miss Beach, Miss Maltbie, and Mrs. Mumford, having been sent out by it. Then too, I do want ~~that~~ Christian women of America shall know more about ~~that~~ comparatively unknown work of the Board in Bulgaria, and ~~the~~ the living voice of one who has been, and for life must be, a part of ~~that~~ work, may bring it home to them as years of reading cannot do. Besides, I believe ~~that~~ the women in ~~that~~ section have been kept much more closely informed by Mrs. Mumford of her work, than they have been of the Board's work in Bulgaria.

You will pardon my writing at so much length, and believe ~~that~~ I will submit fully to the decision which you shall make, although it may be against my own judgment of what is best and most desirable for me. I shall refer this to you

Chelsea, Oct. 9. 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Clark; I do not want to annoy you by persistently referring to a subject which you may regard as settled, but I wish to know if you have met Mrs. Case of Chicago, and if anything has transpired which might lead you to reconsider your answer concerning my going West. Portland has been only an inspiration, and not a weariness, save for a day or two; which leads me to hope that more of travel and of meeting friends whom I am *very* anxious to see, might do more in the same direction. I think my mother would go part way with me. I do not write to urge, but to inquire. I leave for Vt., Thursday afternoon, therefore an early answer will oblige

Yours Truly,
Ellen M. Stone.

ans'd C. A. C.

Chelsea, Oct. 23, 1882.
Rec'd Oct. 24.

Chelsea, Oct. 23, 1882.

Rec'd Oct. 24.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.;
Addressed.

Kindness of Miss Marden —

Chelsea, Mass.;
Oct. 23, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.;
Foreign Secretary Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

Your note of the 18th inst., makes me feel like a naughty child under reproof. I would not have obliged you to say me nay for the third time, but for the fact that my dear friend, Mrs. Steele, leaves to-day for Chattanooga, via Cleveland and the An. Meeting of the A. M. A., and I thought that possibly you might think I had

Miss Ellen M. S

rested sufficiently to allow me to go with her.

But I will not trouble you any more about the matter, and assure you that I am keeping very still, and am resting and waiting.

Yours Very Truly,
Ellen M. Stone.

the wicked. The Spirit of God alone can do this, whatever be the human agencies employed.

Feeling as I do, and must feel, an intense love for the school and anxiety for its best success — I cannot conceive of any danger of a "severance" between the Bible work and the school work, as such, so far as *my* influence over either is concerned.

2 On the point of the place of my residence, I think Mr. Marsh may not have made his meaning appear upon the surface, exactly as he intended it to. He and Mrs. Marsh have indeed extended to me the hospitalities of ~~our~~ their home, but I think Mr. Marsh has no idea of ever suggesting that I shall remain at home to assist Mrs. Marsh, except in case of extraordinary need,

Miss Ellen M Stone

Chelsea, Oct. 23. 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Foreign Secretary Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

To-night I received the following communication addressed to yourself, from Rev. G. D. Marsh, enclosed in a short letter to myself. To the latter he adds a note, dated Oct. 3 saying that his "wife and little son, twelve hours old, are doing well." I thought you would be glad to know of the latest arrival at Philippopolis, before the Sleepers passed through *en route* for Samokov.

There are one or two points in Mr. Marsh's letter to you, (which he requested me to read) which I wish to mention.

1. I have no private axe to grind, or grudge to satisfy, in-

proposing not to return to the School in Samokov. I hope no one can ever have such a thought, for a moment. I have been too happy there, and too much absorbed in the school, and have so loved the girls and my associates there, that nothing but a conviction of the *necessity* of some one's taking up this work which is yet undone, and also that God had taken me out from the school as He had done for some other purpose than to put me back again, when it is so clearly demonstrated that they can get along very well without me, — has led me to suggest that *this* may be God's time to lead *me* to the work upon which my heart has been set, since it first turned to work in a foreign land. But my feeling that this is right, and that the time has come when this work should be taken up in Bulgaria, has grown upon me during the last few weeks, as Miss Maltbie's letters have told me about the unwillingness of even those whom we have *depended* upon as our *faithful* Bible-women, to continue in this work. I think if it is an established feature of our work that a teacher from the school is in the evangelistic work, by degrees a more healthful spirit and tone will be imparted to such admission? I raise this point simply because I have heard from at least two sources, of her course of conduct, since removing to Monastir, that ~~which~~ does not coincide at all with the spirit of such an admission. I do not mention this in a spirit of bitterness because they will vote against me, on the measure proposed, but simply ~~that~~ you may not believe all is peaceful, when there is no peace.

No, my dear Dr. Clark, I never yet was asked to work where there was any one who did not want me there, and I cannot do it now. If you offer me a place on one of the South Sea Islands, I will not, like Mrs. Mumford, go back to Bulgaria and work independently; I will be loyal to the American Board and to my God, and work for souls, where I am most needed,

Yours Sincerely, Ellen M. Stone

God's time ~~to~~ lead me to the

when it was best for me to be touring. But I can easily see that it would be a great relief to Mr. Marsh to be free to prolong his absence from home, at some times, knowing that some one was at home to bear Mrs. Marsh company, in the care of her little ones. I have toured alone with Mr. Marsh and also with him and Mrs. Marsh, and you, Dr. Clark, know their devotion to the evangelistic work too well to need that I should add one word to prevent a thought on the part of any one, that they might have any selfish view in their mind, in proposing that I share their home with them. It would give me great pleasure to accept their invitation, should the mission approve of my transfer to "field work."

3. On one point, Dr. Clark, I do not know what to think. You yourself wrote me, sir, very kindly, that the feeling on the part of my associates in the work, concerning my return to the school, was all that I could wish. I could quote your words exactly, having preserved your letters, but it is not important that I defer to seek it, as it is not at my hand, at this writing. But you will observe what Mr. Marsh says: "You know with what coldness some of the friends there have written to you about her return there." Looking back, I see that he is talking about Samokov, and now I am full of pained surprise. I was not astonished, I say it frankly, when you made such a pleasant acknowledgment of the feeling

of my associates toward me, for they have never given me reason to expect anything else. But now, I don't know what to think. I feel that I must know who those are who have written with "coldness" about my return. This is surely not "all" that I "could wish", as to the estimate in which my associates of the past hold me, and the measure in which they desire a renewal of our relations. I feel that I could not undertake this evangelistic work without Samokov Station were a unit for me to do so, with Philippopolis Station, and as much of Monastir Station as could be expected. I think, Dr. Clark, that you may be right in believing that Mr. Bond's professions that he has made mistakes in the past which he means to correct in the future,—are sincere, and will be made valid, but is Mrs.

point. From the first they had conceded the need of some one in the field work, and they both said No to my inquiry concerning the advisability of my being transferred to Monastir, feeling that my acquaintance with all the native workers in our field would, of course, make me very much more useful among them, other things being equal, than a stranger would be; whereas I would be, essentially, as much a stranger in Monastir, as a new teacher from America would be. If I have not represented the views of Mr. & Mrs. Clarke correctly to you, they are near, and can be heard from. Mr. Clarke expressed his willingness to broach the matter at once to you, Dr. Clark, but the time was too short, as

he left the next afternoon, for Springfield and Amherst. Mr. S.

P. S. I should have added to my letter, Dr. Clark, that I talked with Rev. James F. Clarke and Mrs. Clarke, upon the subject of my transfer to field work, as we were returning from the meeting of the Board in Portland. It was a new subject to them, and at first, if I understood them correctly, they thought that the school needed me too much to make the transfer desirable at this time. But as we talked of the resources of the school, in the way of securing graduates as assistants, and of the prospect of recruits from America, they seemed to waive that missionaries in Samokov. Another point. I know that my return home has not been regarded as a regular vacation; I do not regard it as such; but it is inevitable that quite a number of years must pass before a vacation time can come, and going into field work will necessitate a somewhat different fitting out from that which is necessary in a school. May I consider myself as entitled to a refit from the Board. I would gladly do it for myself, if that were possible, or allow my friends to do it, if I could feel that that would be right.

Yours very truly,
Ellen M. Stone.

Refit

Chelsea, Oct. 27, 1887.
Rec'd Oct. 28.

#167 Pearl St., Chelsea,
Oct. 28. 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.;
Foreign Secretary of Am. Board;
My dear Dr. Clark;

Your note of the 25th inst., through Dr. Alden, reached me this morning. I thank you for your promptness in writing as you did, for I could not bear to have a miserable little doubt concerning the sincerity of any of my former associates, lurking in my mind. Your words have dispelled it.

I am very glad to learn that

which would render an earlier start necessary. If I take up field work, the same urgency does not exist for my leaving at that time, and, if it were possible, I would be very glad if that matter could be decided before my return. — It is some time since I have seen my physician, but purpose to do so on Monday, for I feel the need of being in as good a physical condition as is possible, if I am to go into field work. So that what I have written about December, is not yet a date fully decided upon, in my own mind. Will you have the kindness to send me a copy of the manual? I gave mine to some one of the you have succeeded in finding some one to assist Mr. Brooks at Pera, and shall be glad to have Miss McCallum as my traveling companion, if that will be for the best, all round. I have felt, and have said, that if I am to return to teaching in Samokov, I must be there in season for the opening of the second term, the second week in January, which would necessitate leaving America by the middle of December. Miss McCallum, very naturally may wish to tarry in Europe more than I had contemplated, which would render an earlier start necessary. If I take up field work, the same urgency does not exist for my leaving at that time, and, if it were possible, I would be very glad if that matter could be decided before my return. — It is some time since I have seen my physician, but purpose to do so on Monday, for I feel the need of being in as good a physical condition as is possible, if I am to go into field work. So that what I have written about December, is not yet a date fully decided upon, in my own mind. Will you have the kindness to send me a copy of the Manual? I gave mine to some one of the you have succeeded in finding some one to assist Mr. Brooks at Pera, and shall be glad to have Miss Mc Callum as my traveling companion, if that will be for the best, all round. I have felt, and have said, that if I am to return to teaching in Samokov, I must be there in season for the opening of the second term, the second week in January, which would necessitate leaving America by the middle of December. Miss Mc Callum, very naturally may wish to tarry in Europe more than I had contemplated, will be ready; but may I not expect Him to make it plain to me?

2. As to my "definite assignment to field work," without conference with the Mission." Permit me to say, Dr. Clark, that such a course had not X at all occurred to me, and I should feel that it was wholly unwise and unfair. I wished to inquire if correspondence had been begun, and to express my hope that the matter might be arranged before my return to Bulgaria. The reason for this desire was this: In two instances in which I have inquired how ladies secured their transfer from school work to field work, the answer was that the individual was compelled "to fight it

Chelsea, Nov. 4. 1882.
Rec'd Nov. 4.

#167 Pearl St., Chelsea,
Nov. 4, 1882.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.;
Foreign Secretary of Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;

Calling at your room yesterday, I was pained deeply to learn of your illness, and hope earnestly that you may be able to secure that rest which will help to restore you to a comfortable measure of health. Can you guess how many hearts are overshadowed with pain when it is known that Secretary Clark is prostrated with weakness?

To prove the sincerity of my words, I ought to stop here, but several points in your letter of the 2nd inst. seem to need immediate attention, and for this reason I called at your Office yesterday.

1 As to the *time* of my return. Although I named ~~that~~ December, in my recent letter replying to your question, yet I am not sure that that time is best. It has not yet been made clear to me. I would not run before I am sent, and since talking with Dr. Alden

yesterday, and listening to his advice, I'm not sure that I ought not to accept it, and tarry until spring. If my way were made clear so that I could leave my Mother with less anxiety, I should feel that I *must* go back at the earlier date, for my Doctor encourages me to think that I might go safely in December. One inducement to tarry would be the hope of increasing my usefulness in field work by studying during the intervening months. I have no ambition to be a physician in any degree — but only to acquire greater assurance and readiness in the use of common remedies for common ills. Have you corresponded with Miss McCallum with reference to going in December? If through." I can't bear that kind of work, and I felt that in my absence, the Board having recommended the taking up of this work at this time, and the school showing how well it can be run with the American teachers now in Samokov, — not to speak of Miss Gulliver's going to their help next year; — the opposition which some may feel to the new measure, would be reduced to the minimum. May I ask if you have written to the Mission upon the subject, as I wish to write to my associates, that they may understand from *me*, fully, why I wish to be transferred?

Refit

3. As to refit. I inquired because I felt that some things would be necessary, and others desirable, which I could not procure from my allowance from the Board, during my ~~visit~~ stay in America. It was not that I should need a full refit, but I did not see, for instance, how I could

procure a Cabinet Organ - price $21.00
" Rubber-Overcoat - " 7.00
" folding traveling headstand
" sewing - machine (possibly)

some more books - and replenish some clothing. This was all that I meant ~~to~~ by my inquiry, and I have no anxiety about this.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Ellen M. Stone -

urgently called for. Of course Mr. & Mrs. Thomson cannot be expected to feel the need of such care & watchfulness as we teachers have learned by experience, *must* be exercised over our scholars.

I am also so sorry that your note made no mention of the third American teacher, whom I understand it is your purpose to send out this summer to the school, but you said "Miss Maltbie and Miss Graves can obtain native teachers, I presume." Had Miss Graves the physical strength that Miss Maltbie has, and that I had, and am now fast regaining, they two would be sufficient as the American teachers in the school, with the native help now at their command, I think. But she has not, and never will have, and a third teacher is greatly needed as soon as possible. — I regret very much that the proposal was made that Samokov should be my home, but I hope that you may feel it wise to write to

#167 Pearl St., Chelsea,

Jan. 13, 1883.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., For. Sec. of Am. Bd.

My dear Dr. Clark,

Word has just reached me this week from the East, concerning the receipt of your letter of inquiry as to my return thither to engage in field work, with Samokov as my home. The inquiry rises at once in my mind Did you intend to write "Samokov"? In thinking over the matter, it has always seemed to me that Philip-

the Mission again, at no distant day, touching upon these points. I understood Rev. James F. Clarke and Mrs. Clarke to a

with me that Ph
should be my
home. Mr. & Mrs. Ma
do so, and I thin
also Mr. & Mrs. Thom
and from my kno
edge of Mr. H
broad spirit,
love of being
among the pe
in their hom
I think he wo
favor it.

Pardon the
freedom with
which I hav
written, an
believe me,
Very Sincerely
Ellen M.

popolis must be my head-quarters. Samokov is quite at one side by nearly two days of travel from Phil., and is a day's journey distant from the railroad. I am sure that my work would encounter many more hindrances, and be far less effective in many ways, if my home must be in Samokov, than if it could be in Phil. Very probably I should be in Samokov as often and as much as possible, but I would much prefer to belong to Phil. Station, and have my acknowledged head-quarters there. It seems to me that the proposed movement would be deprived of some of the influence which should be attached to it, in the minds of the people, if I were still to remain in Samokov, which is so strong now as the home of missionaries and teachers. Then too, I want to be on the ground, when our girls are passing through Phil., and make *my home* a stopping-place to which they shall always be welcome — instead of leaving them to the hospitality of Mrs. Mumford, which is invariably extended to them. If Mr. & Mrs. Marsh are soon to return to this country, I feel that this is most present to you a matter, which I should have mentioned to you long since. I will copy her words: "For a long time I have wondered whether you have talked with Dr. Clark about our Primary Department, but have not thought to ask you. The Prudential Committee have cut out the appropriation for the rent this year. It is rather awkward to have that done just now, for the building has become a necessity, if we do not diminish the number of scholars in the boarding department. There can now room there a teacher, matron, and five girls, who occupy rooms on either side of the school-room for the Primary Department. Without that building, if we have the same number of teachers and a room for a matron we could not accommodate as many girls as now we can

Ellen M Stone

✓

Chelsea, Mass., Jan. 16, 1883.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Foreign Sec'y. of American Board;
Dear Dr. Clark;

A *letter* may wait one's convenience, whereas one may not feel entirely free to put off a caller, even though feeling unable to see him, and listen to the object of his call; hence I write you, in place of calling upon you sometimes.

Four letters from Samokov received yesterday, made me very glad. Miss Graves's letter gives me the first "God speed" in the new work laid before me, which has thus far reached me from Samokov; but she writes it so heartily that it has brought strong encouragement to my heart that the rest too will see that this call is from God and not of man, and so they too will utter their "God-speed you." If Miss Graves, who has been so short a time in the work, and has had so little opportunity to see any of it beyond our school and the city work in Samokov, can write: "I see a great need of the other kind of work— the following of our girls to their several fields of labor, encouraging their hearts to do whatever God offers them of service, and showing them especially that the service upon which they are prone to look as degrading almost, is worthy of the utmost care and most loving and prayerful protection." I am all ready now to send you forth to your chosen work with my blessing— my prayers for Heaven's richest blessing upon you and your work, and from a sincere heart. I do say: 'God speed you'." surely I must expect that the rest will not be far behind her. Pardon so full a quotation, Dr. Clark; I want that you should have just what Miss Graves says on the subject. It is true that on the other hand, speaking of the school, she says: "I want to see the bright side even for us, but find it difficult, I confess. Nevertheless we do know that this too is in a wiser hand than ours, and He whose work it is will not fail to care for it most tenderly." When the teachers shall be advised ~~of~~ by you, of the purpose of the Board to send them another helper, and so keep their quota full, I am sure they will be able to be strong in their conviction that the school is not to suffer but rather to be strengthened by having one representative-at-large.

ing is taken from the receipts of our school, should a sufficient sum remain, instead of allowing the whole amount "to lapse". I remember talking this over with Mr. Clarke, while we were still in Samokov. The real trouble is that the main building is not sufficient for the accommodation of the school, limited to the present capacity of the school-room; and every year for the last four years, we have been obliged to refuse applications to receive very desirable pupils, from lack of room. From the nature of the case, we must take some scholars who must spend a year or two in the Preparatory Department; my conviction is that we have not yet reached that time in the progress of the work in Bulgaria, when it is best to say to these applicants – many of them from the best families, and in their by twelve. The Primary Department recite all their lessons there, and the tuition of these is £24. If we call tuition £2, and consider a part of the rent as belonging to this school, the receipts will not lack a great deal of covering expenses. I do not think that this school should be put on the same basis as other Primary schools, since for the present it is a necessity that our school should have a Preparatory Department. Five of the twelve in this department are full-pay scholars". In all of the above Miss Maltbie has had reference only to boarding pupils in our school, who are irregular in one study or another, and thus fall into the Preparatory course; beside these there are from 25-30 day-scholars. This ~~Depar~~ departure, as you may remember, is a *protegè* of mine, Mr. House and Mr. Clarke also warmly urging it. Its good results have commended it to all, I believe, and the time has by no means come when it can be suffered to go by default. It is an intrinsic part of the Girls' Boarding-School in Samokov, but is expanded to take in as many day-scholars as the accommodations will allow. It affords an excellent opportunity for normal training of one or more of our girls in teaching, under the immediate supervision of the teachers of the main school, and so gives us the opportunity to develop there a school which shall be a model. It is not a separate establishment from our school, but is a part and parcel of it. As Miss Maltbie has shown, if we cannot have that building, we shall be obliged to content ourselves with twelve less boarding-pupils next year. If I may be permitted a suggestion, it is this; that since it is impossible — or at least would be very difficult to make such a division of funds as ought to be made, if that Primary Department continues to be regarded as a separate school — that, since it is not separate, but is a~~n~~ necessary part of the main school, ~~that~~ it ~~be~~ so regarded also in providing for its expenses, and that a sum sufficient to pay the rent of the build holars. a school which shall be a model

most impressible years: We have no place for you, because you are not prepared to enter our regular course," when we know there is no preparatory school accessible to them, and that if we do not receive them into our school, the time may never again come when they can be won for Christ.

I know what Mr. Locke said while he was in America; I know too that at least two others who have had longest experience with him in Samokov, and far more intimate relations with school work than he has had — Messrs. Clarke and House — do not agree with him on this point. The wise thing to do is to remodel and extend our present building, making it far more convenient and commodious than it is, and then with three teachers from America and an increasing number of Bulgarian assistants, and a teacher out in the field with her corps of teachers and Bible-women, the educational work of the American Board among Bulgarian women and girls, shall move on more efficiently and effectively, by God's grace, than ever yet it has done. We ought to be leaving behind our first small beginnings, and be enlarging our plans to meet the enlarged opportunity. This has been done in the Collegiate and Theological Institute; it has been done for the Couple Home; can it not be done for the Girls' Boarding School in Samokov?

Yours Very Truly, Ellen M. Stone.

school which shall be a model,

and who is studying in Princeton Theol. Seminary, —
that Zhelazcoff is in a preparatory school, not in the Theo. Sem.

Very Truly Yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Chelsea, Feb. 24. 1883.
Rec'd Feb. 26.

#167 Pearl St., Chelsea,
Feb. 24, 1883.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Foreign Sec'y of Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;

I enclose, with thanks, Mr. Bond's letter acquainting you, among other matters, with the action of our mission relative to my return to Bulgaria, to take up field-work especially.

The unanimity of this action impresses me as further evidence that we were right in believing that our impulse toward this work was of God, and that His

Theol. School, and his teachers would have dropped him again, as unworthy to receive the aid of the Board longer in the school, had he attempted to return in the fall of that year when he came to America - 1881. You may remember Rev. W. H. Belden's remark, that he was willing to confirm whatever I might say of this Zhelagcoff. As you probably have that letter on file, I will not repeat its contents. I have heard nothing to change my opinion that it would be money worse than wasted to send this young man back to Bulgaria. He came to America by his own endeavors, he might be able to find means of returning. I will add but one fact which was told me by a Bulgarian, who called upon me a few weeks since, who has been in America five or six years, time has come when it should become a more distinctive feature of the Board's work in Bulgaria, than it has yet been. If this be correct, surely He will carry to completion what He has begun. In that is my trust.

In response to your question concerning "Constantine Zhelazcoff, now in the Theol. Semy. at Princeton," who "wants help to get home, and proposes then to work as other preachers," I can only say that I suppose this to be the same Kosta Zhelazcoff, of whom I wrote to you in May or June last, stating that he had once been expelled from the Samokov

Theol. School, and his teachers would have dropped him again, as unworthy to receive the aid of the Board longer in the school, had he attempted to return in the fall of that year when he came to America - 1881. You may remember Rev. W. H. Belden's remark, that he was willing to confirm whatever I might say of this Zhelagcoff. As you probably have that letter on file, I will not repeat its contents. I have heard nothing to change my opinion that it would be money worse than wasted to send this young man back to Bulgaria. He came to America by his own endeavors, he might be able to find means of returning. I will add but one fact which was told me by a Bulgarian, who called upon me a few weeks since, who has been in America five or six years, time has come when it should become a more distinctive feature of the Board's work in Bulgaria, than it has yet been. If this be correct, surely He will carry to completion what He has begun. In. that is my trust.

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Roumelia, about 4 p. m. of the next day, or Sarembey, the terminus of the railroad, at about 7 p. m.; a carriage ride of about twelve hours thence brings him to Samokov, Bulgaria. Or should the traveler wish to reach Monastir in Macedonia, he takes steamer at Constantinople for Salonika, arriving there in about three days, and makes the journey thence to Monastir by rail in about as much time more.

These are the frequented routes for reaching the stations of the Board in its Mission to the Bulgarians. But should one chose to strike into the interior more directly from the Danube, the steamer may be left at Lom Palanka; thence by a carriage ~~over~~ road over the Balkans, in a southerly direction, *via* Sophia, the capital of Bulgaria, Samókov may be reached by a leisurely journey of three days, involving stopping one night at a khan, and one at a hotel in Sophia; or, ~~one~~ the traveler may take a post-carriage, with its relays of horses, and be whirled over the country in about twenty-four hours, if he can endure the strain. From Samokov, the missionaries will escort their guest on his way, or perhaps accompany him, to the railway station at Sarembey, one day distant by carriage, whence in about three hours he will find himself welcomed by Messrs. Marsh and Thomson in Philippopolis. Thence the journey to Constantinople is easy, by rail, though there must be a night's delay at Adrianople.

From Samokov across to Monastir is a journey involving more difficulty and danger. A day's journey from Samokov brings the traveler to Djumya, on the boundary of Macedonia. Here passports will be thoroughly examined by the Turkish authorities. Most of the six days' journey can be made by carriage — but a portion lies through a robber infested region, where the mountain road makes horseback riding far more agreeable than a carriage. Rev. W. E. Locke made the journey by this route about a year since, and I was to have accompanied him, had I not returned to America. We should have made the entire journey on horseback, from choice.

I am not sure that I have

Miss Stone

Bulgaria

#167 Pearl St., Chelsea,
Mch. 19, 1883.

My dear Dr. Thompson,

You inquired in what order the stations of the Am. Board, in its Bulgarian Mission, would be reached from the Danube. I would answer that they may be reached in either of two ways: Travelers and new missionaries, taking the trans-Continental route, usually continue on the Danube steamer to Rustchuke, and there take the railroad to Bourgas, on the Black Sea, whence by steamer they reach Constantinople. ~~From~~ Leaving Constantinople in the morning, the traveler reaches Philippopolis, in Eastern now given you all the information which you wished, Dr. Thompson, or *as* you wished it. If I can be of an further service to you, please command me.

With affectionate regards to Mrs. Thompson and yourself, and with my mother's love, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

To Rev. A. C. Thompson, D.D.

tion for her entrance into the work, and the closing term of school is so busy a time that but small leisure could be given to one who had just come out to join the work. The fall would be a better time, from every consideration.

One other reason why I feel that I must go this spring is that I may have the benefit of Mr. & Mrs. Marsh's assistance during the summer, in planning my Bible work. They know the Philippopolis field, in all its aspects, as no other missionaries know it. Beside, you know Bible work, unlike school-work, goes on through July and August, and I want to take charge of it at once, after An. Meeting. But I do not propose to go in to fever regions this summer, in person.

I am very glad to read your suggestion, Dr. Clark, that Mr. & Mrs. Clarke go to Philippopolis, on returning

to the East. This seems to me a most desirable arrangement, – the mo
necessary, for the best good of the work, and I hope also for these dear fr
so n

Miss Stone

#3 Summit Ave.,
Haverhill, Mch 23, '83

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Foreign Secy. of Am. Board,

My dear Dr. Clark,

Your letter of Mch. 21, has just reached me here, where I am spending a few days in my brother's home. I shall return on Saturday afternoon, and shall hope to see you next week, that I may learn from you relative to certain points, and also give you an opportunity to judge for yourself of my physical improvement.

While I could not possibly be ready to go with your party in two weeks, much as I should prize the opportunity of being in your company, my conviction is strong

Enclose Miss Cole's letter, with those points checked which have answered. E. M. S.

Very sincerely yours, Ellen M. Stone.

that it is best for me to go as early in May as practicable. The minds of my friends are prepared for that, and I feel sure that the way is opening, so that arrangements which I have felt must be made before I could leave Mother, will leave me free to return to Bulgaria this spring.

It will be of very great advantage to me in beginning my work, to be at the coming Annual Meeting. It will be held in Samokov, so, by going overland, I hope to be among those who shall extend a hearty welcome to the delegation from our honored American Board, when you shall arrive there from Philippopolis. Then too, the girls who are to graduate from our school in June are depending upon my being with them somewhat, before they leave, and I feel that the month or six weeks which I may be able to spend with the school, as it is constituted this year, is an opportunity for becoming acquainted with the scholars, which I cannot afford to miss. The close of school is the time when many important questions come up for decision: the appointment of the Bible-women & teachers, etc., and this is a matter of great interest to me as concerning my future work. The friends in Bulgaria are all feeling that I must return this spring, and the way is opening thereto in such a manner that I feel sure that this is of the Lord.

I shall be happy to do what I may to assist Miss Cole in *her* preparations, but she will come with Mr. & Mrs. Clarke, in the fall. The summer would not be a good sea-

Heirs Owen M. Stone.

Chelsea, Apr. 3, 1883.

Rec'd Apr. 3. Ans'd 11.

✓

#167 Pearl St., Chelsea,
April 3, 1883.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.;

My dear Dr. Clark;

Probably you have received before this note shall have reached you, the opinion which Dr. Denney told me, late yesterday afternoon, he would write you during the evening. He told me that he now sees no reason why I may not return to Samokov at the time anticipated, in May.

Therefore with a strong conviction that God is leading me back to my work in Bulgaria, and with the confident expectation of being

one of the number who will welcome you to Samokov, I send to you, Dr. Clark, and to all of your party whom I know, my most heartfelt wishes for a prosperous voyage, and an earnest – God bless you!

Sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Jas H Denny Ap

hr. 3 1883

Dr Duing.
Recd April 3. 1883
re Miss Stone

No. 7 Newbury St. Boston,
April 2" 1883.

My dear Doctor Means;

I have just had an interview with Miss. Ellen M. Stone of Samakov, and write, in accordance with her request, to inform you of the result.

Her health is restored, and she is able to return to her work, when required.

If she is careful to reserve her strength in her school duties, live out of malarious regions in the unhealthy seasons, and avoids bad water, so far as it can be remedied by filtration etc. i.e. at Philippopolis, I see no reason why she may not preserve continued good health,

Yours very truly
James H. Berry

Philippopolis, E. Roumelia,
Sept. 29, 1883.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secy. of Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;

Your letter of the 29th ult., came to me last evening, and made me very thankful to hear from you. The last *Congregationalist* which we have received, contained the notice of your return to Boston, and said that you were again in your room as of yore, though you were not making so long days as formerly. It gave me a very comfortable feeling indeed to realize that you were once again at home, safely, and now in imagination I come in to sit by your chair for a moment. It will always be a source of keen regret to me that you could not come and see this work among the Bulgarians; but we will hope to welcome you among us yet. Only four days from London to Constantinople now, and two days of lazy railroading thence, to this city!

Since reaching Samokov, June 25, it has been my fortune to attend the three days' examination of the Girls' Boarding-School, and proud I was of it; the four days' examination of the Collegiate and Theological Institute; and they never passed a finer one. The music in both schools, under the supervision of Rev. W. W. Sleeper, was a delightful feature. Then followed immediately the sessions of a conference with the Bulgarian helpers, and the Annual Meeting of our Mission, held conjointly, in Samokov. The next week, July 17, Miss Graves and I made a tour to Panagurishti, and were present at the examination of candidates and the organization of a church of twelve members. We had some most delightful experiences among the spiritually-minded Christian women of that village. The work there is heart-satisfying in its depth and life. We returned July 25; ~~and~~ on ~~Friday~~ Thursday I removed, with furniture from the school building, etc., to Mrs. Locke's, where is now my home when in Samokov. On Friday, the 27th, in company with Dr. Kingsbury and several Bulgarians, left for a tour in Macedonia, extending our journey from Bansko and five surrounding villages to Nevrokope, where the work of evangelization is but just begun, but is encouraging from the start. Young men especially are inquiring. We reached home Aug. 10, safely brought, although the return had been exceptionally difficult in consequence of the embarrassment of coming upon an unexpected quarantine in a mountain gorge, when we were but six ~~miles~~ hours distant from ~~the~~ home. This compelled us, although almost exhausted, to turn back over a trackless mountain, and to spend the night beneath the open heavens, while our guards tended the fire which they had made, quite as much for protection against bears, as to warm our wet and chilled selves. But early in the afternoon of the next day, we could gladly say "All's well"! "Home at last!" On Wednesday, Aug. 15, I accompanied Mr. Marsh and his family to Philippopolis, and during the ten days which preceded their departure for America, became settled in my new home in their house, where I have since had the pleasure of entertaining, in connection with Mr. & Mrs. Thomson, and forwarding upon their way, several parties of our

girls and their teachers, returning to Samokov, also preac
ers who had occasion to be in the city for a day or tw
Mr. & Mrs. March left the city Aug. 27. Sept. 15, Miss Spooner
arrived from Samokov, to accompany me to Constantino-
ple, whither I was to go to meet Miss Cole. She, Miss S., is some
what stronger in health, and I hope that it will be
possible for her to continue to gain, although in the
midst of her work in Monastir. She *loves* her work,
and has the great longing of her heart satisfied in
being permitted to return to it. Although a telegram
was received from Mr. Bond, the night before Miss
Spooner and I started for Constantinople, saying:
"Monastir wishes Cole" - Mr. Thomson and I felt that
we as a station could do nothing but to carry out
the plan to take Miss S. on her way to Monastir,
as Dr. Kingsbury had given his permission for her
to return, and all of the other brethren in Samokov,
save one, had approved, as she understood them. We
accordingly arrived in Constantinople Sept. 19, and the
next morning early Drs. Riggs and Byington con-
ferred with me concerning the case, and we were of
one mind that as members of the European Turke
Mission, there was nothing for us to do but to permi
events to take their course - Miss Spooner to continu

on her way to Monastir, and Miss Cole, to Samokov. The only word against this arrangement had been received from Mr. Bond; nothing had come from Samokov. It seems but fair that Miss Spooner shall have every opportunity to prove to herself as well as to others, whether she can or cannot continue in the work, and that by the time of the next Annual Meeting, this point will be clear. Miss Cole will in the meantime find in Samokov advantages for studying the language, which are far superior to any which Monastir affords. As was the case in Philippopolis, so also in Constantinople, we were in possession of no advices which intimated any change of plan, save Mr. Bond's telegram. Arrangements had all been made for Mr. Pettibone to accompany Miss Spooner to Monastir, and Miss Cole's boxes were already in the Custom-House in Samokov. Doubtless some one else will have written you about this matter, but I wish to be sure that you understand it, just as it seemed to us, who were obliged to take the responsibility of deciding whether to change Miss Cole's destination or not. Of course the only thing which we could have done, had the case been a clear one, that she must go to Monastir, would have been to start a circular-vote by telegraph. I hope that the result will justify our course.

Miss Cole and I reached Philippopolis Sept. 26, and to-day (Oct. 1) will leave for Samokov, arriving there to-morrow night, if God will. Miss Cole is in splendid health after her journey. She had quite a rest in Constantinople and again here.

I am feeling very well, and am trying to be very careful of my health, and also in regard to working. I expect now to be absent from Philippopolis about 6 weeks touring, and after returning in November, to go into the eastern part of the field also touring.

Please accept my hearty thanks for your kind advice, I will do my best to conform to it.

Pardon the blots upon this letter, which had been written at several sittings.

With heartiest wishes that you may enjoy renewed strength and vigor, and praying God's blessing to be upon our loved and honored American Board, which will assemble to-morrow in annua meeting, I am

Very sincerely yours.
Ellen M. Stone.

Philippopolis, Sept. 29, 1883.
Recd. Oct. 22.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
July 16, 1884.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary A.B.C.F.M.,

My dear Dr. Clark,

Your very kind letter of April 17 awaits answer, and I have very much needed counsel from you. You were writing upon the very day when, in Annual Meeting assembled in Monastir, the subject of inviting me to take charge of the girls' school there, until a new teacher can come and prepare herself for the place made vacant by Miss Crawford's resignation, was broached and urged. Feeling the importance of the Bible-work upon which I had entered but so few months before, to be such that only the direst necessity should compel me to leave it, the brethren voted to wait, and if possible to find some other way to supply the need of their school, their vote reading: "that Monastir Station be empowered to invite any assistant missionary on the field to take charge, temporarily, of their school, in case Miss Spooner's health fails, and no other satisfactory arrangement can be made."

June 4, Mr. Bond wrote me: "We are very sorry to report that Miss Spooner's health has evidently failed, and if she remains on the ground, there is no prospect that she will be able again to assume anything like the direction of the school. As no other satisfactory arrangement appears possible, we appeal to you, and hereby heartily invite you to come and take charge of our school. Miss Spooner joins in this invitation. We sincerely regret calling you away from an important work, but we regard the work here as important, and our present need is very urgent. If a teacher from home be sent out soon, we may be able to release you at the end of one school year."

Hoping that you would note the fact that the matter had come up at Annual Meeting, and would make some recommendation concerning it, I have delayed answering this letter. Yesterday Mr. Bond telegraphed for my decision, and I have written him the message "Cannot come." It has seemed to me that I am not competent to take the responsibility of deciding to leav~~ing~~ a work to which I was so recently sent out, even to go ~~ter~~ temporarily to Monastir, although I have the greatest sympathy with the friends there at this juncture, and regard their school as very important. But I have great hope that Miss Spooner is to be able to remain in the position which she fills so ably; then with the faithful Bulgarian assistant, whom they have had for six years, and just the right woman sent out from Boston, to take the charge of the school. I see no reason why the school may not win its way, even against the strong competition of Greek and Bulgarian schools. They have excellent accommodations for their school, and have already won a recognized place in the community and the region. Now let just the noble woman, strong of soul, sound in judgment, broad in education, gentle in heart, and wise with Heavenly wisdom, be found, and sent thither, and as generous equipment for working as may be, — and the future usefulness and success of that school is assured. I feel sure of it. Miss Spooner's health is much improved, I am rejoiced to believe. She wrote me June 29, that she was very much better, and would take the advice of friends, and remain through the summer, and hoped that she would not be compelled to leave the work, which continually becomes dearer to her. If she can stay, all will be well, I think. If she must leave, someone must go from here to their help.

The work for which I came hither from Philippopolis after Annual Meeting, is just finishing: school is done, and Miss Graves arrived home from Constantinople last Saturday evening. She is nearly ready to resume her duties as housekeeper at the school, and is, I hope, much benefitted by the rest and change of the past three months. Miss Cole is adapting herself well to a place which is beset with some peculiar difficulties. Miss Graves and I fully agree, and the judgment of several of the missionary wives is the same, that she is needed here. For lack of fuller accommodations, Miss Cole is now to room with Miss Graves.

In a Trustee Meeting at the Girls' School, last Tuesday afternoon, the subject-matter of your letter, Dr. Clark, addressed to Mr. Locke, came up for ~~decis-~~ ~~so~~ consideration, and it was voted to sustain the action of Annual Meeting, in asking the appropriation for enlarged accommodations for that school. Here may I be permitted to say that I am very thankful that no action was taken to change the present formation ~~constitution~~ of the school. I was here before the change was made, which incorporated the day-school into our preparatory ~~primary~~ department, and relieved our corps of teachers of that incubus, by making the teacher of the latter responsible for both day-scholars and boarders in that department. It has been a gain and not a loss, in every way, I think, and does no injustice to the Bulgarian brethren, by taking authority out of their hands. One of them acts now as a trustee, in receiving applicants for admission, and collecting fees. I do not and would not regard this Preparatory Department as a permanent portion of the school. The mission among the Bulgarians is young; and there are as yet but ~~four~~ five schools, and these in the oldest Protestant communities, which can be feeders to our school. There are several other places whence loud calls come for a teacher, but they are doing all they can to support their preacher and possibly a Bible-woman, and cannot do anything toward raising the one-half salary of their teacher, as the rules of the Mission require them to do. As numbers strengthen, and the spirit of self-sacrifice developes, such communities will have schools, and applicants for the Samokov school will be fitted to enter the regular course. By that time too the few resident friends in Samokov will be willing to take the responsibility of their day-school, and carry it on as it is now carried on. They all pay willingly now the tuition of their children.

In my own private judgment, it would have been wiser had the amount asked, been for the erection of a new missionary residence, and the school be allowed to take possession of the adjoining missionary estate. The premises of the school are sufficiently limited now, without giving anything for the proposed increase of accommodations, and the changes proposed will be quite limited, it seems to me, in comparison with the need. But it seemed to be so ungracious to suggest that our brother, Mr. Locke and his family, should be disturbed in their home, that no one wished to urge it; but it would be a far wiser expenditure of means, I believe, if the Board were to suggest that a building be erected at the northern end of the premises, rather than the proposed enlargement of the school-building itself. I understand both Miss Maltbie and Miss Graves to say that such a plan would be more satisfactory to them, than to try to build upon the present land. Some alterations would be necessary to make the missionary residence fit the needs of the school, but they could be made at a comparatively small expense.

Many thanks for your kind interest in my behalf, Dr. Clark. I am very well indeed, and am taking care to keep so. It is my plan to resume touring, as soon as practicable. My assistant of last year has accepted a call to teach in the school of the Methodist Mission, with our fullest approval. There will be some one else to keep me company in our work, I believe.

With sincere regard to yourself and your associates, I am
Faithfully yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Samokov, July 16, 1884.
Rec'd Aug. 9.

Philippopolis, Jan. 27, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary A. B. C. F. M.;

Dear Dr. Clark,

It has been upon my mind to write you, ever since the proposition was made to us that Miss Spooner should spend the winter in Philippopolis, instead of continuing her journey to America from Constantinople last fall. I can but believe that you have been made aware of the history of the case, both from Constantinople and from other stations, but it might be well that I should report also my understanding of it, together with a statement of Miss Spooner's condition at present.

Upon returning to Samokov, late in September, en route for Philippopolis, after a month's tour in Macedonia, I was met by a telegram from Miss Cole in Monastir, announcing Miss Spooner's resolution to return to America, and to start the next week. This filled me with surprise and pain, as I with others, had felt so hopeful that Miss Cole's companionship and assistance might be sufficient relief to enable Miss Spooner to go on in her work. As the days passed, and I learned more of Miss Spooner's weak condition, I became deeply impressed with the conviction that she could not make the voyage of the Atlantic alone, and was ~~lead~~ led by the strength of my conviction to telegraph to Dr. Byington that if Miss Spooner thought it necessary, and the Mission so requested, I was ready to accompany her to America, and to return thence immediately. After a few days came a telegram in answer, wishing me to go to Constantinople for consultation, having first obtained the judgment of Samokov and Philippopolis Stations upon the ~~ad~~ question of the advisability of my going all the way home with Miss S., should it seem necessary. As Mr. & Mrs. Thomson were then in Samokov, a joint meeting of the Stations was held, and they voted "Go, if absolutely necessary." But soon after came another telegram from Dr. Byington saying that Mr. Knapp was going to America, and that I should wait for a letter. In the meantime, my homeward journey was continued with Mr. & Mrs. Thomson, and in Philippopolis Dr. Byington's letter was received, expressing the judgment that it would be an excellent opportunity for Miss Spooner to go on with Mr. Knapp. ~~A~~ I had some doubts about the possibility of any *gentleman* being able to give her the assistance which she needs, when her nervous weakness most requires help, but acquiesced whole-heartedly in the plan. Then came weeks of waiting, caused by Mr. Knapp's illness upon his journey to Constantinople, and Miss Spooner had just written definitely her conviction that she could neither wait longer for him, nor go alone with him, should he come shortly,— when Dr. Byington wrote to Mr. & Mrs. Thomson at the same time that he wrote to myself, of a plan which had occurred to him, and which commended itself to the gentlemen in the Bible-House with whom he had spoken, who were Dr. Riggs, Dr. Wood, Mr. Peet, Mr. Dwight, Mr. Baldwin, and possibly some others, whose names I do not now recall. This plan was that we should invite her, Miss Spooner, to spend the winter in Philippopolis, where she could have good medical attendance, and then, if, in the spring, she still needed to go to America, she could go in company with some family, and there be no need of me to go specially on ~~my~~ her account. I am frank to say that compliance with this plan looked far harder, so far as my share in it is concerned, than even the journey in mid-winter, ~~but~~ and as Mr. & Mrs. Marsh had not arrived, I could not feel at liberty to invite her here to their house. But Mr. & Mrs. Thomson sent her a cordial invitation to make their house ~~their~~ home during the winter, so that I felt quite at liberty to offer my services in any way in which I could help her. Miss Spooner willingly acquiesced in the proposed change of plan, and gladly accepted our invitation to Philippopolis. Although the capacity of Mrs. Marsh's home is so fully taxed by my being a part of their family, that they have no guest-room (and I have in vain protested that it would be better for them were I to room elsewhere), Miss Spooner preferred to share my room, rather than to accept Mr. & Mrs. Thomson's invitation to their home. I should have felt that for the sake of both of us it were better not to be room-mates, were it not for the single fact that, at times, Miss Spooner has suffered exceedingly from nervous fear, when alone at night,—and she was so sure that it would be better for her to be here, that I waived my objections.

About two weeks after her arrival, it seemed best that I should start out on a tour to occupy about three weeks, but after one week, word came from Mrs. Marsh, which obliged me to give up visiting other places, and return as early as practicable to Philippopolis. Miss Spooner had consulted with Dr. Russell, whom we esteem highly as a faithful and a skillful physician, and he was anxious to explain his method of treatment to the one who was to have the care of his patient. Before entering upon the treatment, Mrs. Marsh of course felt that, with her household cares and the teaching of her children resting upon her, she should could not possibly undertake also the care of one who is for much of the time really an invalid, so she sent for me. Dr. Russell encouraged us very much from the first, concerning Miss Spooner's case, and under his treatment she has seemed to make decided progress toward nervous soundness. He says that she is suffering from impoverishment of the blood, and he has been endeavoring by hygienic measures and hydropathy, together with a limited use of medicines, to bring about a change for the better. She is better, in some respects, and Dr. Russell affirms, every time I ask him concerning her, that he has no doubt about her recovery. He told me, however, last week that he should advise a change of climate for her. Instead of her returning to Monastir, he thought that Samokov would be a more desirable location for her.

My reason for writing at this time is the evident anxiety of some of the friends in Samokov, as manifested by a letter which I received a few days ago from one of them. It asks: Who took the responsibility of advising the changes when Miss Spooner had permission from the Prudential Committee and from Monastir Station to return to America? I answer, Constantinople Station, with the tacit consent of Philippopolis Station, in so far as the invitation extended to Miss Spooner to pass the winter here, is in the line with consenting. The letter asks: "Who is to pay the bills?" Dr. Byington plainly told Miss Spooner and wrote me, that her salary would be continued, and should her expenses exceed it, on account of Doctor's fees, etc., it would be met. The letter asks: "Who is to decide the question of her remaining or not remaining?" This is a more difficult point. We are all aware of Dr. Kingsbury's conviction that Miss Spooner cannot recover sufficiently ~~at least~~ to ~~be~~ remain here as teacher. But, on the other hand, is the testimony of an educated, skillful physician, widely famed for the cures he has been instrumental in making, who, after a careful and far more thorough investigation of her case than

Dr. Kingsbury ever made of it, gives his judgment directly in opposition, and says that she can and will be well. He thinks that she has "never had sufficiently vigorous treatment hitherto". We are able to carry out Dr. Russell's recommendations in every respect save one. He would be glad to have Miss Spooner ride horseback, but when Mr. Marsh is away there is no horse in the Station, and Mr. Thomson never rides horseback, save when compelled to do it, as on our trip to Monastir last spring. The weather beside has been exceedingly unpleasant, foggy, cloudy, and cold, and with more snow that has been seen before for years, in this region. But next month milder days will come, we hope, and I trust that Miss Spooner will then be so much better that she can spare me to go away to visit our helpers. The past two months, the severity of the weather would have confined me to the city, even had she not needed me.

We have always been led to suppose, both by what we saw of Miss Spooner in her work in Monastir, and from what Mr. Bond and, I think, also Mr. Baird have written here, since she has been here, of their desire that she should improve so as to return to her place as soon as possible, — that there was no doubt concerning the regard in which both she and her work there are held, and the eagerness with which her return is awaited.

I wish to add only that Mr. & Mrs. Thomson and I have done what we have done in the matter because it seemed our duty to do so, and because we hoped it might be the indication of God's purpose to retain in the work here one who has laid an excellent foundation for future work in the language, and whose limited experience, even in the midst of great difficulties, has proved her a very valuable laborer in this field, and one who cannot willingly be spared from it. — I have not heard a word which would indicate how the matter is regarded in Boston.

Wednesday, Jan. 29. Mrs. Spooner has seen her physician again to-day and he mentioned to her what he had said to me of his opinion that it would be better for her to work elsewhere than in Monastir, but when she assured him that she was happy in her work there, she inferred from his manner that he would not be very strenuous in recommending any change. — The long dreary cloudy weather has at last changed, and to-day has been a glorious winter day. We are all wonderfully cheered by the change.

Hoping that you are stronger in health, Dr. Clark, I am with affectionate regard to yourself & Mrs. Clark, & to your associates,
Faithfully yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Philippopolis, Jan. 27, '85.
Rec'd. Feb. 19.

w/ Spooner's case

malady is manifesting itself in some new and very distressing forms. I hope ~~that~~ it can be arranged so ~~that~~ she can return with Miss Closson. She must surely have the companionship of some lady, who will be able to care for her until she reaches her friends. Dr. Rousselle, who has made a faithful study of her case, pronounces Miss Spooner's trouble to be anaemia, a bad form of it, - but he cannot say that it is pernicious anaemia because the distinctive features of that form of the disease have not manifested themselves, but he seems to be expecting them to develope. However he hopes that the return journey will benefit her, and the re-union of Miss Spooner with her friends, and freedom from any and all care & responsibility such as she had in Monastir. The Doctor assigns as the

Philippopolis, E. Roumelia,
Mch. 18, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.; —

Dear Dr. Clark; —

While watching by little Georgie Marsh's bedside to-night, I find time to reply to your note of Feb. 10. Please accept my thanks for it.

If the mails were faithful, you must have received my letter, sent late in January, a few days after mailing yours. From it, you will have learned that my duties since Nov. 11, when Mr. & Mrs. Marsh and their family returned, and Miss Spooner came, have been largely those of a nurse. I have been absent from Philippopolis but one week, tho.

numbers of strangers, especially young men. Two Sabbath service every seat was occupied, and still ~~they~~ came. Pastor Tonjoroff is preaching go gospel sermons.

With sincere regards to yourself and to your associates

I am faithfully yours,

Ellen M.

I planned at that time to be absent three, — but was recalled by Mrs. Marsh, as Miss Spooner was not as well, and Mrs. M.'s hands were so full with the care of her family, and teaching her children, that she could not take any extra care upon herself. I have accepted the care of Miss Spooner as the work which God through the Board, by virtue of the action of Constantinople Station, laid upon me, during the past winter, and have carried on my work as well as possible by correspondence. Were I but free now, the season has come when I would gladly be out among the villages, but as the way is closed to me, both on account of sickness in Mr. Marsh's family, and Miss Spooner's need of care from me, it must be that it is my duty to remain here.

It is a great disappointment to us all, that Miss Spooner's health has not improved, as we hoped it was to improve under the skillful and faithful medical attendance which she has enjoyed during the past four months. Dr. Ronsell, who has attended her, has at last told us plainly that nothing more can be done here, and advises her return to her friends as early as possible. We are now trying to arrange that she go in company with Rev. Edw. Riggs or Miss Closson, but it would be much better if she could leave earlier than they are to leave. Sometimes it seems clear to me that she is growing worse every day of late. Her been of great value to us in this respect, among others. She herself feels, and all of us who have been with her, that the Doctor's decision is right, and disappointed as we are that she must close her work with this Mission, yet that it must be. We are shut up to that.

We are anticipating a visit from Miss Ellen Carruth early in April, but as she expects to travel on *via* Samokov and Sophia to the Danube, and it does not seem possible that Miss Spooner could endure that long carriage ride, probably it would be unwise even to suggest that ~~Miss~~ she S. should return with Miss Carruth.

By the physician's advice,

Miss Spooner has refrained from hearing the Bulgarian language spoken, or from reading it, hence she has attended but one or two Sabbath services since her arrival here, and has made but very few calls upon Bulgarian families. Now, although for a few hours together she sometimes seems well, she is not able to do more than to take a walk or a ride for exercise, and to sew or knit a little. often the entire day must be spent upon the bed, she feeling to much exhausted or too faint to make any exertion, or at other times, she is too nervous to permit of her working.

I have told you, Dr. Clark, thus fully concerning Miss Spooner, because our physician here is not in correspondence with you, and

Philippopolis Mar. 18.

Rec'd Apr. 6, '85

I have thought that you would wish as definite information as may be had, before her return. It is with deep regret and pain that we contemplate parting with our friend,— and losing her from active participation in this branch of the Master's work.

Little Georgie Marsh seems to be gaining, but he had such a slender hold upon life, when the fever left him, that the work of building him up must be a very slow process. He suffers greatly still, and requires the closest of care. Mr. & Mrs. Marsh are very much worn with their long watching with him.— Concerning church matters here, I can but feel that there is a better feeling among the friends. The Sabbath services are attended by great cause of her anaemic condition, an affection of the heart; or, to speak more exactly, the heart itself performs its functions well, but the blood-vessels which distribute the blood through the body are too small to nourish the nerve-centers. Dr. Roussell avows this as his theory of the case, but says that he wishes Miss Spooner to consult the best physician in Boston, after her return, and he will be glad to be informed of his judgment of the case.

Although Miss Spooner is sorely disappointed and very much distressed, as it now seems probable that she may never be able to return to Monastir, — yet I feel that this winter's experience has

Philippopolis, E. Roumelia,
Mch. 25, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Sec. of Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

You will wish to be informed of Miss Spooner's condition, and I feel that I ought to write you that it seems to have taken on a very serious phase, during the last week especially. Her attending physician is confirmed in what he has feared since he began to treat her, that her malady is Pernicious Anaemia. He assures us that he thinks she can make the return journey to her friends; but we feel sure that if she is to continue to fail as she has failed for the last few weeks, it ~~is~~ will be entirely impracticable. This week, she is confined to her bed, suffering from extreme exhaustion, and also from acute pain. Should she rally, we feel that she should be taken home at once. If the Mission desire me to do so, I hold myself in readiness to do all in my power to take our friend back to her home.

My health is good, and I hope will be

equal to any demand which the care of Miss Spooner may make upon it. Perhaps I should add that she has failed perceptibly since her close questioning elicited from Dr. Russell his opinion that it is impossible for her to recover sufficiently to expect ever to resume her work in Monastir. She loves the work there with all her heart. But now that the struggle is passed, she is quiet and resigned. She does not know from us how serious her condition is, only knows that there is such a constitutional defect in the circulation of her blood, that it cannot be remedied.

Mr. & Mrs. Marsh are very much worn with the care of their George during his long siege with Typhoid Fever. He was a very sick boy, and went down very near to death. His convalescence is slow now, but we hope that it will be more rapid after a time.

With sincere regards to yourself and to all of your associates in work, and with sorrow to learn of Mr. Ward's accident, I am

Very truly yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Philippopolis Mar. 25, 85.
Rec'd Apr 19.

393.

At Mr. Peet's home, Constantinople,
April 6, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., Foreign Secretary of Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark,

Miss Spooner and I have arrived thus far on her homeward journey. We left Philippopolis last Friday morning and had a comfortable two days' journey to this city, Miss Spooner bearing the journey much better than we had feared she might. After a rest of three days here, we expect to take Wednesday's steamer for Marseilles, and to go on with as little delay as possible to London, to try to meet Mr. & Miss Pettibone, to arrange, if possible for Miss Spooner to make the remainder of her journey with them. Of course, should it prove to be necessary for me to continue her companion until her sisters should receive her to their care, I am ready to accompany her, and should rejoice in this opportunity to look once again, and so unexpectedly, into the faces of my Mother and all of my dear friends at home. But unless it is absolutely necessary that I take the Atlantic voyage with Miss Spooner, every consideration combines to hasten my return to Philippopolis and to the work which I was sent thither specially to do.

As I wrote you not long since, Dr. Clark, when the care of Miss Spooner during the past winter, was laid upon me, by the action of the Constantinople brethren last fall, I shrank from it with a great shrinking, but accepted it, with many a chiding to my unwilling spirit, - as it seemed so clearly to be God's will that she should come to us. In many respects it has been a hard experience - but chiefly because of the confinement which this responsibility has imposed upon me, preventing me from carrying on my special work, except so far as might be possible by correspondence. But all of us in the Philippopolis Station feel glad that, at last Miss Spooner herself and so too must her friends and the Board, feel sure that everything has been done which it was possible to do in this country, to determine the question of the possibility of her rallying sufficiently to justify the expectation of returning to her work. She feel satisfied with her attending physician's skill and faithfulness, and interest in her case, and is very thankful to him, as indeed we all feel, that when he was asked for his bill, - he declined to present any, and expressed himself satisfied. Dr. Russell feels confirmed in what from the first was his fear, that Miss Spooner's trouble is Pernicious Anaemia, for which there is no known remedy; but the distinctive signs which would prove indisputably that this was her condition, not appearing, he treated her by every means which should restore one, whose condition was simply anaemic, and not of this fatally developed type. Six weeks or two months since, however, he ceased treating the case, saying that nothing further could be done here for her, and advising her return to her friends. We then supposed that there was no haste, and began to correspond with the several parties who are expecting to leave Constantinople for America during the spring, endeavoring to arrange for Miss Spooner to go with them. The Pettibones thought it unadvisable that she be with them, as they purposed traveling upon the Continent and in Italy, & then we turned to Miss Closson. But about two weeks since, Miss Spooner was very ill, and the eyes of all of us were opened to the fact that she was failing, and Mr. & Mrs. Marsh felt quite as strongly as myself that, if she is to go home at all, no time could be lost. Word was sent to Constantinople; the brethren there acted promptly, and on Sabbath evening, Mch. 28, came the report of their decision – that Miss Spooner, accompanied by myself, should be here in season to sail by the steamer of April 8, for Marseilles, and that we travel together to England, where we should meet the Pettibones; then, if they could take charge of our invalid for the remainder of the journey to her home, well and good; I would at once return; but if not, I am to go on. Acting upon this decision, we are here. It seemed to be a great relief to Miss Spooner to have the time and manner of her going settled. She was able to make her own preparations, and seemed remarkably well for several days before we left. She is feeling the reaction somewhat, and is now keeping very quiet.

One thing which makes it seem to me impossible to accompany Miss Spooner to America, if it can possibly be avoided, aside from the consideration of the extra expense to the Board, which I am determined to save them, if possible, – is the fact which came to my knowledge only the ~~delay~~ day before leaving Philippopolis, that some of the brethren at Samokov, and perhaps in Monastir, are very much exercised because Miss Stone has turned aside from her legitimate work, which she was sent here to do, to care for the sick. I try to keep down grieved and indignant feelings at the injustice and seeming unfeelingness of the accusation— and to be content in the knowledge that God knows how hard it was for me to accept this service, even at His hand, and to say: "Thy will be done."

You will surely bear me witness, Dr. Clark, that I was in no way responsible for Miss Spooner's appointment under the Board. That was accomplished before I received an intimation that she had thought of devoting herself to mission work; and the knowledge of it greatly surprised me, because ~~of~~ I had known of her imperfect health years before. But I supposed that she must have recovered, or at least greatly improved, during the years in which I had known comparatively little of her,— to justify her appointment to any position under the Board. It was not that I doubted her consecration or abilities to develop into a most valuable helper in mission work, but simply because of her health,— that I was surprised. You may remember also, that when upon my return to America in '82, you inquired my opinion, Dr. Clark, as to whether she were the one needed as the third ~~assistant~~ teacher in the Samokov School. I said no; or as my companion in work, I felt obliged to make the same answer. Then the Board assigned her to Monastir, and she made for herself such a record ~~there~~ that causes all to have but one regret, I believe, and that is that her health would not allow her to make it fuller and longer.

There has been but one instance in which I have felt obliged to dissent from the opinion of Dr. Kingsbury & Mr. Baird, and perhaps also Mr. Locke, with reference to Miss Spooner's stay, and that was when they endeavored to force her going, in the fall of '83, when Miss Cole came out. You will recall it all. The majority of us surely felt that the time had not come, and the history of the following year seems to have justified our conviction. Now we all feel that the time *has* come — Miss Spooner not less than the rest.

Pardon my long letter, Dr. Clark. I felt it but just to myself and my associates in Philippopolis, to make this full statement. — Hoping that your own health is stronger, and that your family and all of your associates at the Rooms are well, I am, with affectionate regards,

Yours sincerely — Ellen M. Stone.

Constantinople, Apr. 6. 1885,
Rec'd Apr. 23.

Am. State
Philippopolis

New York, May 4, '85.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secy.
Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;

Miss Spooner and I arrived to-day by the *Etruria*, two of my brothers and one of her brothers-in-law meeting us. We propose to-morrow to continue our journey to Boston, if practicable, and to-morrow evening I expect to resign my charge of Miss Spooner into the hands of her family. She has borne the journey better than we feared she could, but she is exceedingly weak.

Had it been possible to have written you from London, after our conference with Mr. & Miss Pettibone, I should have done so, but we took the first steamer which sailed after the decision was made that I must come to America with Miss Spooner, which left us very little time. I hope that you may have received a letter from Mr. Pettibone, informing you of the reasons for this step, but if you have not, it is my purpose to call upon you as soon as practicable, to report upon the case, and also to receive my future marching orders.

Please excuse a very brief note, as I am very weary to-night.

God hath been good to us both upon land and upon sea, by day and by night, and He is bringing us unto our desired haven.

With sincere regards to your associates in work, and asking especial remembrance to Mr. Ward in his misfortune, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Ellen M. Stone

57 Hawthorn St.,
Chelsea.

Haverhill, Mass., May 14, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

As I am sending to Treasurer Ward a statement of the expenses of our journey home — Miss Spooner's and my own — I enclose a note to you, to report myself as to be at Westmoreland, N.H., until Thursday of next week, and then after a day in New York City, at home in Chelsea, after Saturday, May 23. I am very well.

In a note received this week from Miss Minnie C. Beach, 173 Randolph St., Chicago, she writes: "Give my salaams to Dr. Clark, if you see him after receiving this note, and tell him I'm better than I hoped ever to be again."

I saw Miss Spooner on Monday afternoon after you had left her. She lately wrote me a letter in which she stated that her sensations were changing very much, and she felt that they were becoming more serious in character. Nor should I be surprised should she be correct in her judgment. I can't help being anxious to hear from her every day.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone. over

P.S. - Excuse me for adding in pencil, a word of explanati relative to the cable-message, informing my family of the time of sailing from Liverpool. My brother who recei the message, sent it at once to the Congregational Hou in an envelope addressed to yourself, to Dr. Langworthy, and to Mr. Richardson. The two latter gentlemen were and read the message; you were not in. My brother in-tended to send it again to you, the following day, but it escaped his attention. We regret the circumstance very much.

E. M. Stone.

Haverhill, May 14, 85

Recd. May 18.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.,

Addressed.

Kindness of Mrs. Ward.

Later, May 29. Westmoreland, N.H.

Pardon a postscript, please, upon a scrap of paper, but good news has come to me since I wrote the morning's note. A letter from Miss Cole has just arrived, forwarded from Chelsea, in which she tells me of the entire change in her feelings, with reference to staying and working in Monastir, and bids me tell you that she has changed her mind, and *wants* to stay in Monastir. She wishes that, if possible, an associate may be sent her, when I return. Probably it would be impossible to send any one so soon, but Miss Cole could not have been expecting me to return to Bulgaria so soon as I am to go. The letter says, indirectly, that the Bairds have left for America. Miss Cole seems to be very well and happy, and says that she is doing more in the school than ever before, and enjoys it. She adds that Mr. Harris still lives, and the robbers have reduced the amount demanded for his life from £2500— £ 700. ~~He~~ If only ~~How~~ his life may be saved!

Very truly yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Westmoreland, N. H.
May 20. 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., Foreign Sec'y Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

Doubtless you have heard from Mr. Pettibone, and perhaps have conferred with him, before this time, and so I dare hope that you have learned from him why the decision was made in London, that I must accompany Miss Spooner to America. He told me there that he felt so strongly that it would be unadvisable to transfer the care of Miss Spooner to his sister, that he had thought that he would prefer to pay into the treasury of the Board, one half the expense of my journey from England to America, rather than have any change made; so it was perfectly clear that there was nothing else for me to do but come the remainder of the journey. But I intended only to refer to Mr. Pettibone's arrival, and then write you an item or two of news from Samokov.

When I met you, you inquired concerning Miss Graves's health, in connection with Dr. Kingsbury's suggestion that she too should have permission to return. In a letter written April 20 and received last week, she writes: "I wonder if I shall go to America next year, but I am thankful not to have to go this year, on account of ill-health. I still am very well, endured my journey to Bansko remarkably." She had just returned from her visit to Macedonia, where she had attended the An. Meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society.

A letter was received here from Mrs. Locke's oldest daughter, Miss Adelie, written from Samokov, April 26, and saying that they expected to start for Monastir, April 30, taking the overland route, via Dubnitza, Kustendile, Palanka, Scopia, Gradsko, + Prelep.

I am finding the rest in this New Hampshire home, which I have long craved, and expect to be in Chelsea again much refreshed, next Saturday evening, God willing. On Friday shall be in New York, at Miller's Sanitarium, 23d St.

Very sincerely yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

57 Hawthorne St. Chelsea.

[illegible] Tuesday
May 20. 1895 —

Miss Ellen M. Stone

The Missionary Rooms are in the Congregational House, corner Beacon and Somerset Streets, Boston.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

CHARLES HUTCHINS,
General Business Agent.

397.

No. 1 Somerset St., Boston, May 26, 1885.
7 a. m.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Sec'y. of Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;

On the way home o Chelsea from South Natick & Auburndale, I find the Cong'l. House still very quiet, but being furnished with writing materials in Mr. Hutchins' room, wish to leave you word acknowledging the receipt of your letters of Mch. 18 & April 8, forwarded from Philippopolis, also the one of last week, which was awaiting my return from New York, Saturday night. The chief reason for my going to New York was to give my mother an opportunity to visit my oldest brother, who is residing there, though it gave me also the privilege of meeting a number of other friends.

Letters from Const'ple. and Philip-popolis, received yesterday bring word of the quite serious illness of Miss Maria West, who is now boarding with Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thomson. On this account they have not been ab to settle themselves into their new quarters, as fast as they would otherwi have done. — The Byingtons were to sta for Liverpool May 10, Dr. B. being quit hopeful of returning to work in fro 12 - 18 months. — Considerable disturban in Philippopolis upon St. George's Da May 4, and the previous night, ~~[illegible]~~ a mob of young Bulgarians mobbing Greek houses & places of business, whi displayed the Greek flag.

I wished to see you about the pos bility of Miss Parsons' going with m Unless you know of some reason

The Missionary Rooms are in the Congregational House, corner Beacon and Somerset Streets, Boston.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

CHARLES HUTCHINS,
General Business Agent.

No. 1 Somerset St., Boston, 1885.

eed to accept your offer of its
se upon my return, since
Mr. Pettibone found mine at
Greene & Whinney's, and brought
it to me.

With heartfelt regard, I am
Faithfully yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Allow me to add a word of
thanks for your kindness in
etting me right before the
rudential Committee of the
oard. Both Mr. Thomson's & Mr. Marsh's
tters refer to the matter, ~~in their last~~
tters and assure me of the feeling of all at
Bible House," Mr. T. says, that I could not
e done otherwise than I did. E. M. S.

the contrary, I am ready to ask
Mr. Ward to take passage for
me upon the *Pavonia*, sailin
from Boston June 6. Dr. Strong
told me yesterday that Mr. &
Mrs. Storer are returning in th
steamer. If possible to secure a
stateroom elsewhere, I hope that
need not be very near the scre
nor under the apparatus for
hoisting ashes, nor at either extre
ity of the steamer. Please do not
think me unreasonable, but exp
rience has shown that the posi
tion of the stateroom most mater
affects one's comfort during the voy
age, and I have had better placed
rooms upon each return voyage
than when going out.

Many thanks for the use of yo
steamer-chair, Dr. Clark. I shall n

Samokov, Bulgaria, July 25, '85.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Sec. Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark,

Please allow the accompanying report, which was presented at our last Annual Meeting, July 6-14, be to you the assurance of my safe arrival here, and also of resumption of work. My journey from America ended June 29, and was a very comfortable and enjoyable one. I found the mission-circle in Samokov in good health, and with hands and hearts full in providing for guests at the school examinations, and the conference and Annual Meeting, which immediately followed. The school examinations this year attracted a degree of interest such as was never before manifested, I think, and the impression made by them seemed to be most favorable. This was doubtless owing to a variety of causes operating with the excellent management of the American teachers in the schools. Among these causes are, it seems to me, the larger & more efficient force of Bulgarian teachers; the literary society in the girls school, under whose auspices the oratorical exercises of the girls were given on the evening of graduation day, to an audience which

Philippopolis, Southern Bulgaria,
Sept. 24, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., For. Secretary of Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

A time when we feel uncertain how long we may have postal or other facilities for writing what ought to be written, is a spur to prepare and send letters while yet we may.

The uprising of the people in this Province, which took place last Thursday night, is termed a "bloodless revolution". The result will show whether it be a successful revolution or a futile rebellion, but it has been accomplished thus far with an almost entire absence of violence in these parts, for which we are very thankful. Prince Alexander convened an extraordinary session of the National ~~Government~~ Assembly at Tirnova, Northern Bulgaria, last Sabbath, and after securing an act permitting the Bulgarian army to come hither, to assist in the defence of this portion of his dominions he himself came, arriving in person last Monday morning. After receiving a hearty reception from his people, he set himself to hard work upon the problems which awaited the touch of his hand and brain and heart. He seems resolute and in earnest, and has gone about his tremendous task with all the strength of his manhood. His first words to Mr. Marsh were an acknowledgment that we must have help from God, while we do all which He puts within our power to help ourselves. Prince Alexander is sending forward recruits as fast as possible to the frontier, and also the more experienced troops of the regular army; is providing means for uniforming and feeding the army, for the late action in overturning the former government was so precipitous that almost nothing was prepared for ~~the~~ what might be the consequences of that step. There seems, however, to be an abundance of arms and ammunition; ~~food and~~ clothing ~~are~~ is now being provided, the government having seized the sewing-machines of the tailors, and their owners also, for government uses. One of our Protestant friends is in charge of providing hard-tack for the army, and twenty unmade bags were yesterday distributed to every house, in some sections of the city, for the occupants to make, the bags to be used for the transportation of the bread to the troops. Sept. 28. Since writing the above, our friend has passed over his work to the authorized commissioner, and I learn that the bags are to be used as knapsacks for the soldiers.

Mail and telegraphic communication has been reopened to the public, except in the direction of Constantinople and Turkey. All newspapers are suppressed, so that we are forced to depend upon the ~~p~~ orders which from time to time are posted, and upon the rumors which fly from mouth to mouth, for our knowledge of what is going on. Prince Alexander has ordered the closing of all wine-shops, which order went into effect last night, also the suppression of all disreputable establishments, - this in the interests of good order.

While we wait in suspense to know whether peace or war is to be the answer of the Powers, to the appeal of the Bulgarian nation to them for help, we are kept in quietness of spirit, and the full conviction that God will bring that to pass which shall be for the honor of His name among this people.

Bible wom

Ever since the An. Meeting of our Mission I have been wishing to write to you, Dr. Clarke, in explanation of one point concerning the Bible-Work. You must have noticed a request for £15 for the traveling expenses of of Bible-women and teachers. This is in pursuance of a plan to gather them for a month of special instruction in matters which will be of practical value to them in their work, and the step was taken in accordance with a formal request from these workers that they should be thus gathered and taught. During my journeys to and from home, a plan to provide a humble establishment, which should be a Bible-woman's home and training-school, and at the same time give me a home of my own, was in my mind,— and I talked of it with Mrs. Bowker, when I was at home. It is hard for me to move around so often, and have no permanent dwelling-place. While in Samokov for about five weeks, I moved from the Girls' School to Mrs. House's, and thence to Mrs. Clarke's, where I have a room now, which I call mine, and in which I have ventured to arrange such of my household belongs as are in Samokov. You may remember, Dr. Clarke, that for convenience in working in different parts of the field, it seems best for me to have two homes - two centers from which to go out - one in Samokov, and the other here. I do not mention this point, save incidentally, for I feel that the time has not come to develop the plan for a Bible-woman's home and school, and may never come. I fully acquiesced in the suggestion of the Committee, indeed, I shaped the resolution which was adopted, that a training-class should be held in Samokov, during the month of June next. Experience will teach us how to meet the need of special training which is patent to the Bible-women themselves, as well as to us. But I do want that £ 15 to be granted, surely, and believe that the ladies will give it.

The matter of the occupation of Serres seems to be solving itself at present. In a time of such excited feeling, and of absolute non-intercourse with Macedonia, it would be impossible to send families into that far interior city among the hostile Greeks. We have no word as yet from our friends in Monastir, and wait with anxiety to know how it is with them. We do not know whether they can find any way to communicate with us.

We are all extremely busy with the preparation of clothing and hospital stores, to be used in case of need, while at the same time we watch and hope and pray that freedom may be granted to this nation, by the consent of the Powers of Europe, without recourse to war. May God grant it! Philippopolis is entirely quiet. The best of order is maintained, and public confidence is in a good measure restored. Mr. Marsh & family and myself are well.

Remember me, please, my dear Dr. Clark, very kindly to Mrs. Clark and to Secretaries Alden and Smith, to Dr. Strong, Mr. Ward, & Mr. Hutchins & Mr. Chapin, and to the rest of your associates in the dear old Congl. House.

Believe me, very truly yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Philippopolis, Sept. 24, '85
Rec'd Oct 19.

Philippopolis, Southern Bulgaria,
Oct. 16, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the
Am. Board,

Dear Dr. Clark,

Your letter of Sept. 17 was very welcome. Every word which reaches us now seems doubly valuable, and such hearty words as those contained in your letter, precious as never before. Truly we are "at the front," in a new sense, during these days, and know not but that we may yet find that our good city is ~~yet~~ actually in front of the besieging Turkish army; though we hope not. Just now we are living in absolute suspense. There is a large garrison of soldiers in the city, quartered upon the citizens, but fed and clothed by government. Rumors that the Sultan has sent word to the Prince that unless he evacuates Philippopolis in five days, he will march his army hither, are rife, but we cannot learn that they have any foundation in fact. Meanwhile, we live in quietness, amidst a degree of orderliness and self-control which well merits the admiration of the world. In conversation with a French lady yesterday, who was in Paris during its siege, she commented upon the fact of the almost perfect order, which is maintained here, as something which could not have been accomplished in Paris under similar circumstances. Mr. Marsh has allowed about twenty soldiers, to occupy the house nearly opposite, which was formerly Mr. Thomson's residence. Four of our own Protestant boys from the Samokov school, are among the number.

Of course, in these times, neither Mr. Marsh nor I are touring. I was in Samokov only for a short time, preceding and following my tour to the Razlog, which occupied all of August. The Bible-women are at work in their respective fields. The training-class proposed, will be continued for a month only, preceding the examinations in Samokov, that the workers may have the advantage of some lectures or talks upon various subjects which will be of practical use to them in their work. Many, many thanks for your cordial assurances of help and interest in this work. With sincere regards to yourself and associates & to Mrs. Clark, I am, Faithfully yours, Ellen M. S

Philippopolis Oct. 16, 1885.
Rec'd Nov. 9.

Philippopolis, Southern Bulgaria,
Oct. 30, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

A day or twice since, Mr. Marsh showed me a letter which he had lately received from yourself, and which he was proposing to answer immediately. As one of its questions referred to me, possibly you may wish to hear from me just how the matter lies in my mind.

The question of what should be the amount of my salary came up and was settled at the conference with the deputation from America, in Constantinople, while I was still in America, and knew nothing whatever of it. When upon my return, I learned the figure which had been decided upon, I demurred, fearing that it might cause unpleasant feelings with some others in the Mission; but the brethren assured me that the matter was settled for that year, and that I would better say nothing until I knew from experience what would be the expense of living in Philippopolis. This last year, I arrived in Samokov, from America, just before Annual Meeting, and had no part in the making up of estimates for appropriations, beyond Mr. Marsh's reading over to me those which he had arranged for other

workers than the Bible-women, and suggesting
to him what I thought would be right in th
matter of the latter. I see now that I should ha
given more thought to the matter of what m
salary should be; had I done so, I should have
requested that it be put at a lower figure, and
now would request that it be made £100 f
Jan. 1886, instead of £110. I wish I could ask th
it be made £95, which is the salary of Miss
Maltbie, Miss Graves, & Miss Cole, but I dare not; my
expenses are much more than theirs, and are m
than those of the ladies in Constantinople, if I a
rightly informed. The ladies in Samokov pay 65 pi
tres gold, the ladies in Constantinople, 75, and I pay 9
a week for board. There is no other place in whic
I can board here save at Mr. Marsh's, and they th
that they must have 90 piastres a week. Doubtless i
not more than is necessary, under the circumstances,
the expenses of their family are very heavy. If the Locke
come here, perhaps I can board with them, but very
likely at no less expense. If it were possible to keep
house, I would enjoy that, but it seems not to be, a pre
present. — We are trying to be patient until we c
hear from An. Meeting, and trust that you were ev
more than usually blessed of God, in your gathering th
We still wait in suspense for news as to the future of
country.

With sincere regard, faithfully yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Sophia, Bulgaria,
Dec. 10, 1885.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,

Foreign Secretary of the American Board;—

My dear Dr. Clark;—

Your letter of Nov. 10, reached me here, having been forwarded from Philippopolis. Many thanks to you for it. I am grateful to the American and to the Woman's Boards, for granting the L. T. 15, asked for to defray the expenses of gathering the Bible-Women at Samokov, for a training-class, to continue for a month, next spring. It will be an experiment, and we can judge only subsequently as to its success, but anything which shall serve to encourage the Bible-Women, and make them feel that an endeavor is being made to fit them for better work and wider usefulness, must be helpful. I will do the best I can to expend the money wisely and carefully.

You are probably now better informed of the condition of affairs in Philippopolis than I am, as Mr. Marsh is there. It is a little more than ~~two~~ one month~~s~~ since I came hither. During October I was in Philippopolis, and my assistant with me, prepared at any time to start out for field-work. But Mr. Marsh considered it to be unsafe either for himself or for me to go upon the road. There was an abundance of work to be done, in the way of correspondence of Reading Bulgarian and studying it, with my assistan beside giving what coöperation was possible, with our Bulgarian ~~assistance~~ sisters, in their patriotic efforts to prepare supplies for wounded, in case war should open, as it did subsequently. Stop Not a week passed, I think, in which I did not consult with Mr. Marsh about the possibility and expediency of my going to some of the nearer out-stations, but he always thought it unadvisable. This being the case, that my assistant, (Miss Akrabova, who graduated from the Samokov school four years ago, and since that time has been a teacher there until the present term) was with me, and both of us ready and anxious to improve the autumn in touring, but hindered by the threatening war-cloud, I felt perfectly justified in taking some time for studying the language, and in doing some writing, with Miss Akrabova's assistance. Mr. Marsh, however, at the end of a month surprised me with a criticism of my course, which seemed to me extremely unjust and even cruel, At the end of a month however ~~and~~ I took upon myself the responsibility of braving whatever danger might be met upon the road, and of coming with my assistant to Sophia. The church here, you are aware, has no pastor, and the frien are in need of help and encouragement. A we after our arrival here, — we having made the journey with perfect safety, — Servia proclaimed war with Bulgaria, and commenced the march of her army toward Sophia. War was proclaimed by the Bulgarians on Saturday. Monday evening the wounded began to arrive. There was fear and consternation, and distress upon every side; then most of my missionary friends in Samokov and Mrs. Haskell in Philippopolis wrote me, expressing their conviction that it was of God that I had gone to Sophia as I had done. My own conviction is the same — that God sent me, — and the stirring up of my nest in Philippopolis it was a part of His plan. It was not much that I could do, beyond trying to help and comfort, during the days of greatest fear. In connection with one of the Christian sisters of this church — my assistant having been compelled to return to her home — I have visited several of the hospitals, chiefly the large military hospital — not so much for the purpose of assisting in dressing and binding wounds, for I felt that, after the first pressing need, others could learn to do that, while we should give ourselves to a work of which no one else seemed to think, namely of comforting the wounded men by writing for them letters & telegrams to their homes. In this way we have been able to come near to the hearts of many of them, so that we could drop there some of "the good seed of the Kingdom", by the spoken and the written word.

You must have heard from Mr. Clarke of the refusal of the Bishop of Sophia to allow the distribution of the Gospels among the soldiers, and yesterday, ~~Mr. Barrington, who has just arrived from England, as a Commissioner from the National Aid Society, bringing hospital supplies,~~ has told ~~me~~ that he believed the government would send us wounded soldiers to the hospital which Dr. Kingsbury has prepared for them in Samokov. The Bishop in that city has anathematized the enterprise, and the entire priesthood seems to be extremely suspicion that the readiness which all Protestant Christians have shown, to aid ~~in~~ this emergency of the nation, must have some sinister motive, & as the Bishop of Sophia – Clement – plainly said, "this is not the time for the circulation of the Scriptures, and for attempts at prosel ing." Meanwhile, I find no hindrance, save in the matter of distributing Testaments. About this we nee care, not to arouse an opposition which shou make futile all our attempts at work. A few Testaments, which were presented to the Red Cross Society, of which Bishop Clement is President, have been circulated, having received its stamp.

This week, Miss Stewart, a special nurse sent hither by the Queen, to express her Majesty's sympathy wit Prince Alexander and this Bulgarian nation, arrived, together with Mr. Barrington, ~~to whom I have above referred,~~ & an English surgeon. At the request of M Lascelles, wife of the English Consul-General here, I have been with Miss Stewart, for two days, to inspect most of the hospitals in the city, and be of any assistance to her which was possible to me. rendered Now she has with her one of the teachers of the Samokov school, as an interpreter. I feel that this opportunity to show a little kindness to a stranger who had come to assist this nation, is by no means lost time or strength, but will be owned by the Master as a part of the work which He sent me hither to do.

The time for which the armistice was arranged between the Servians and the Bulgarians, expired yesterday, but as yet we know not what has been decided. The length of my stay here depends upon the need; should the war continue, I shall remain longer, for this is the time & this the opportunity which we wish to ~~have~~ improve to the best possible advantage.

I am happy to say that Mr. Marsh has had printed over 30,000 cards with appropriate texts of Scripture, in Bulgarian of course — the selection having been made by Pastors Tonjoroff & Boyardjeoff. The Bulgarian Evangelical Society declined to assume the cost of printing them, so Mr. Marsh and I, (possibly some others sharing), have borne the expense, being persuaded that in this way we can put a few precious truths from God's Word into the hands of an army of these soldier-boys.

You refer to the occupation of the house which was Mr. Thomson's residence, by soldiers. I think that no trouble can result from this course, but only benefit, as showing the strong sympathy of the Americans, with this national movement. It now seems less and less probable that there is to be any change in the government, which should endanger those who ~~have~~ have aided in this uprising of the people for liberty. The word here to-night is that Russia, who has been the determined opponent of the union, from the outset, is now using a more conciliatory tone with reference to it, and also toward Prince Alexander. "It is fully time, I think, that Russia should see what the rest of the world has been more ready to acknowledge, that the "Bulgarians are of the stuff that nations are made of," ~~[London Times]~~, and to be willing to allow them to enjoy the liberty which God has put within the grasp of their heroic hands. I would love ~~to go~~ on, ~~and~~ write you of the brave deeds of which we hear,

Done ~~told~~ both ~~from~~ of Prince and peasant, of the heroic endurance of the wounded in the hospitals under the most excruciating tortures, of the recognition of God's hand leading Prince and nation during this campaign, which we hear very frequently, and sometimes from lips unused to acknowledge God," — but this letter is already very long, and your patience wearied, it may be.

Allow me to express the hope that your eyes are continuing to gain strength, and that in other respects you are as well as usual. Remember me with cordial regards, please, to your associates, Dr. Alden, Dr. Smith, Dr. Strong, Mr. Hard, Mr. Chapin, and Mr. Hutchins, and believe me, with affectionate regard,

Yours faithfully,

Ellen M. Stone.

while the uniform courtesy and thankfulness of the boys, both wounded and those in active service, has filled my heart with the thankful assurance that God had surely sent us to Sophia, for that time of need. We are all *hoping* for an established peace, but preparations are going forward rapidly for the enrollment of the new levies, for which a proclamation was issued last Saturday. Prince Alexander arrived in Philippopolis as Governor-General of the Province, and had a most joyful welcome & enthusiastic, from Turks as well as Bulgarians. We were told that the representative of the Russian Consul did not go with the other Foreign Consuls to meet the Prince, and the Greek Consul did not raise his flag. All these things are significant,

Hasquey, Southern Bulg.
Feb. 18, 1886.

Rec'd Mar. 27.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., Foreign Secy.
of American Board,

My dear Dr. Clark,

Your letter of Jan. 13, sent to me at Sophia, was forwarded thence to me in Philippopolis, having arrived after my departure. Although there were still about five hundred wounded men left in three hospitals in the city, to whom my assistant and myself and our friends with whom we boarded while in Sophia, were the only visitors to converse with them, and to try to comfort them and direct their thoughts to the only real things, — yet I felt, that, having distributed the five hundred testaments which Dr. I. G. Bliss and

Rev. James

distribution in the hospitals, I must return to Philippopolis, and while the times yet are quiet, make a circuit of the Eastern part of my field, to see how the school-work and the work among the women has prospered. I have been exceedingly happy in the hospital service, which has been purely hospital-visitation, to distribute religious reading and to seek opportunities for religious conversation. Our service in writing letters, telegrams, etc., for the wounded, in the time of their terrible need, was all to this end, that God might thus give us access to the hearts of the boys for whom we wrote, and also to their families, to whom we wrote. There was dreadful need for other but we held ourselves strictly to the work which we hoped would enable us to help the boys in their religious life. In this work we have been very thankful for some little tracts issued from the Samokov school press, – which were exactly adapted to the times, being stories of the conversion of two soldiers. We distributed them in the hospitals, the ~~boys~~ men thankfully receiving them; we also gave them to crowds of soldiers upon the street, who gladly took them, giving us their thanks. I never met an instance of rudeness from any of the boys upon the streets, nor in my many, many visits to the many hospitals, which at first, in the time of greatest need, were opened in Sophia. This has many times excited my wonder, Dr. Clark, that you may understand that I have not left the directly spiritual work, which I came hither to do, but have tried to take advantage of this time of fearful suffering, to comfort the wounded and dying, and to find an opportunity to direct darkened, frightened, saddened souls, to Him who is a refuge for all in distress.

With affectionate regards to Mrs. Clarke and to your associates in the office, I am

Yours faithfully,

Ellen M. Stone.

we know that there are grave reasons to fear a strong opposition to the present government, because of the discontent on the part of the Russian party, and every discontent is most industriously encouraged by the Russian agents, who are working here as they have been for months past, and are freely distributing Russian gold among all who can be persuaded to receive it, as the price of their treachery to their government. But, despite all that is dark and discouraging, we can but know that God has led the Bulgarian nation and wonderfully helped them till now, and we must believe that we are yet to see His salvation more wonderfully in the days which are to come, of the nation will but trust Him.

I am greatly obliged to you for your kindly interest in my health; allow me to assure you that I have continually had in mind the necessity of having a zeal according to knowledge, and have tried to be very wise and prudent in working. It is true that I have been very well indeed this winter, having suffered far less than usual from colds. Everyone remarked upon my stout and improved condition, when I returned from Sophia.

The training class of women will not meet before the middle of May, so that they can have suffered no injustice. The war interferes more or less with most of the school, but I feel very thankful that postal and other communication has remained unobstructed to so great a degree, so that we could still correspond with the several workers, and now I am again going among them, and find the field prepared as never before, perhaps, since I have been in the country, for the sowing of the seed. May God make us wise to win souls, who shall "shine as the stars forever and ever"!

Despite the prohibition of Clement, Bishop of Sophia, of the distribution of the Scriptures, I received only the kindest welcome to all the hospitals, and freely gave to the hungry souls there, the Bread of Life for which they were so eager. Often and often was my timid faith put to shame. God has again made "the wrath of man to praise Him"!

I have written thus fully, dear

Samokov, Bulgaria,
June 2, 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the A. B. C. F. M.,

Dear Dr. Clark;

Your note of April 26 reached me here a few days since, having been forwarded by Mrs. Marsh. Its kind assurance of your frequent remembrance of me, and interest in the work which has been committed in a measure to my care, touches me deeply, and gives me a new courage.

The report of Bible-work for last year, was presented at Annual Meeting, as you suggested that it would be, and doubtless has been forwarded to you by the Secretary of the Mission, together with the reports of other departments of work. Owing to the preparation which I felt in duty bound to make, to help to entertain our guests at the two Annual Meetings in Philippopolis, that of the Mission and of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, which immediately succeeded it, the time which I could devote to preparing the report was quite too limited to make it an adequate representation of the opportunities to which I was led, during the nine months which intervened between the Annual Meetings of 1885 and 86. I hope that you have not felt inclined to disapprove of the way in which I tried to help Mr. & Mrs. Marsh to entertain the two gatherings which met in Philippopolis. Of course an Annual Meeting ~~bri~~ must bring more or less of a burden for entertainment upon whichever Station may invite it; and when that Station consists of but one family, and that one already burdened with a boarder, who occupies its only guest-room, the out-look is rather serious for the entertainment of the would-be and the longed-for guests. As this was our condition in Philippopolis, I urged Mr. Marsh to let me move across the street, and occupy temporarily Mr. Thomson's house, for which the Board is still paying rent, and which has been used only for the book-department and as a place of storage for Mr. Marsh's carriages. Mr. Marsh consented, and helped me very kindly in every possible way, and Mrs. Marsh loaned to me many, many household goods

We found a firm who were willing to rent to me chairs, bedsteads, and crockery, although it was an unheard of thing in Philippopolis thus to do;– and with the help of many book-boxes, we temporarily fitted up the house, in which my Bulgarian assistant, Miss Evanka Akrabova, and myself had a *home* in which to receive our guests, both American and Bulgarian. We enjoyed it exceedingly, although the work was rather more than our strength would permit, during the days of greatest pressure; but we very soon rallied, when we had a few days in which to rest, before "breaking up house-keeping". I didn't plan thus to receive as many guests as possible, in any way to offset Mrs. Mumford, for I knew nothing of her plan, when I purposed to make a home to which to welcome all of our Bulgarian teachers and Bible-women. It may have offset it, in some degree, however, as she filled up her school-building, with boys from our school in Samokov, and young men from elsewhere, her girls giving up their dormitories, ~~and~~ but remaining in the school-building till the close of the meeting. The course which she is now taking in dismissing her boarding pupils for a year, and filling her house with army officers, less or more in number, for the sake of the income which she will thus derive, is being very strenuously condemned by even those who have been her friends and advisors among the Bulgarians. Mrs. M. B. Willard of Madison, Ct., who has been for nearly three years, Mrs. Mumford's associate, left a few weeks since, returning to America; she took with her a Bulgarian girl, who has been for a number of years in that school. This leaves Mrs. Mumford alone. It seems very plain that her work is not prospering. She seems, however, to have an abundance of means, and says that this year, she will complete her school-building by ~~building~~ erecting the second wing. There has been some feeling on the part of those who have graduated from her school, or who have left it without graduating, because she has neither provided work for them herself, nor allowed them to take work under the Board. To avoid unpleasant complications, we have said unvaryingly to those, her former pupils, who have sought work from us, that they must first bring us a written certificate from her that they are free from all financial responsibility to her or to her school, before we could entertain their requests. She had repeatedly made them such assurances verbally, but when they made application for her to say the same in writing, she gave them a certificate of freedom for this year only, saying that from Jan. '87 she had another plan for them. An uneasy fear comes to me sometimes that this "plan" will result in some confusion in the work among the women of this land, but I will not entertain it, knowing well that this work is not our own, and that the Master of the Harvest-field is abundantly able to care for it. Please believe me, Dr. Clark, that I have not referred to Mrs. Mumford and her ~~way~~ work in any complaining way, but rather that you may understand her present position, and how it concerns or may concern our work — the Lord's work. I think that the Bulgarians are feeling that there but few results from that school, and that spiritual results are lamentably lacking. Mrs. Willard was a true, Christian woman, one whose friendship Mrs. Marsh and I felt honored in cultivating; her departure is a sad loss to whatever girls may still remain connected with the school.

While I had my home in Philippopolis, at Mr. Thomson's house, it seemed a pity that our Training-Class could not be held there, ~~too~~, inasmuch as the members of it were present at the meeting of the Bulgarian society, but by vote of the Mission, we came hither, and succeeded in leasing a part of our friend, Mr. Tichanoff's house, and there the members of the class live and there is our school-room. We have classes in Bible-Study, Church History, Moral Philosophy, reading, writing, arithmetic, Practical Theology, in the form of lectures by Mr. House, all of which are very familiarly taught, – and practice in singing. I am sure that this month's experience will show the Bible-women that the importance of their work is not underestimated, and will help them to hold it at its true value. They seem very well, and happy, and take great interest in their studies. One, who has never attended school before, and who hesitated very seriously about coming, fearing but she is so very simple, and ignorant, that she might not be able to understand much, is showing a keenness of mind and a retentiveness of memory, which proves that she will acquire a new mental impetus, and will go back to her work with many new ideas. We, at the same time, are gaining a new spiritual impetus from her simple, implicit, but unwavering faith in God. Our class is composed of one widow, whose daughter is in the class which will graduate in a few ~~years~~ weeks, from the girls' school; our friend, Mrs. Nicolitza, of whose divorce from her husband, two years ago, you were aware, – she was with me in Philippopolis; and two young girls – one a bright, acute-minded, sweet-spirited, consecrated graduate of our school, and the other of slower mental faculties, a very unpromising scholar, but one upon whose spiritual work, God has put His seal. This is my flock – two mothers, and two daughters. Their number might have been larger, as two of Mrs. Mumford's former pupils have importunately sought work, which we felt, that, for the sake of peace, we could not give, although work was waiting for faithful laborers, – and still another, whom for various reasons, it has seemed best not to employ.

Samokov — June 2 1884 5

Of the class of four, who will graduate this year, from the girls' school, all will enter the work in one capacity or another, we hope, and so the number of workers will be increased.

Since coming to Samokov, a new call is made upon both my assistant and myself, to return to the girls' school, as teachers. Miss Maltbie and Miss Graves seem to think there is no other way to provide for the school. I cheerfully give up my assistant, if she feels called thither, much as I have needed her to be with me; concerning myself, I have told Miss Maltbie that if the Trustees and the Samokov Station feel that I ought to come temporarily, during Miss Graves's absence in America, and Philippopolis Station approves, I am ready to accept this call, feeling that the Bible-work will have good care from Mrs. Locke, who having just been transferred to Phil., with her family, will in the absence of her elder daughters in America, be able to do touring with her husband, and so to care, in a measure at least, for this work. I do not feel as the teachers seem to feel, that I ought to return to the school permanently. It seems to me that some younger associate should be found for Miss Maltbie and Miss Graves — and I be left in the field-work, if the Mission approves. Forgive this long letter, and believe me, with affectionate regards to yourself and your family and associates,

Very truly yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
June 19, 1886.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board;—

My dear Dr. Clark,

Although it is but a short time since my last letter to you, I hope that you will not think me intruding upon your time if I write again, for I want you to know about the Training-Class in which you have expressed such a kind interest. We have now completed the four weeks for which we gathered; very busy weeks have they been, and very happy ones to us all. The "two mothers and two daughters" of which the class is composed have been animated by a common spirit of helpfulness and of a determination to make the most of the opportunity which is now afforded them to accumulate helps for their future work. The class comprises those of various ages and attainments, so that we have been obliged to modify our instruction to suit the different capabilities. There have been classes in Bible-Study, Church History, Moral Philosophy and Geology, from which all have profited. There have been also elementary classes in reading, arithmetic, and writing, which the youngest member of the class has had no need to attend, she being a graduate of our girls' school in Samokov. She has therefore filled her time with attending reviewing classes at the school, in Mental Philosophy and Natural Theology, and has profited much by her earnest listening. Mr. House gave the class eight familiar lectures upon Theology; Mr. Clarke received them into his class of Geology, and testified that he thought that none had profited more by his instructions during that week than had these mothers. Dr. Kingsbury has talked with them several times, instructing them what to do in cases of accident, sudden sickness, how to keep well, etc. Mr. Sleeper admitted them to the girls' school at time of morning prayers, that they might sing with the girls some of the many new hymns which he has taught the scholars.

June 25. The examination at the Girls' School has passed, and most of the scholars have gone to their homes, and the teachers are busily preparing for their flitting to Europe or England, and Miss Graves to America. They leave us next Monday. They greatly need the change which they are to have, and will come back, I hope, Miss Maltbie in September, and Miss Graves, after a year, greatly refreshed and blessed. It was evident to all who listened to the examinations of 7 classes from the little ones in the Preparatory Department, to the last class on Graduation Day, that faithful work has been done by teachers and scholars, and that the high standard of the school has been maintained. The graduating-class numbered four, all Christians, we hope, and though young, we expect to hear that they are blessing the several communities in which they are to live." Upon the evening of Graduation Day, Mr. Sleeper gave a sacred concert in the Evangelical church, which drew out a very large audience, among whom were some who never had entered its doors before. That the music was of a very high character, both as to selection and performance, no one who knows Mr. and Mrs Sleeper as you know them, Dr. Clark, need be told. It seems marvelous what results Mr. Sleeper has achieved with the boys and girls, both in vocal and instrumental music, since he came to Samokov. His is the master-hand which draws out sweet sounds from least suspected throats, and teaches clumsy, blundering fingers something of the skill of his own.

"The Training-Class still continues, that its members may have the benefit of the examinations in the Scientific and Theological School next week. Pastor Boyardjieff is here, as an examiner, sent by ~~delegate from~~ the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. He has given the class a practical talk upon methods of Christian working, and will give them one or two more. These talks will be of great benefit to them, coming from one who has unusual tact and skill in pastoral work, as well as long experience. Next week the members of the class will return to their work, and time will prove of how much practical benefit this experimental training-class for Bible-workers has been. They are very thankful for the opportunities which they have had, and seem to be very much encouraged in their work, and to feel called of God to it. One of our sweet young girls who has had two years of experience in it, and one year in school-teaching, begs to be assigned to Bible-work, as it seems to her the most blessed work in the world." — I can but regret deeply that the duties which are now to be laid upon me in the school, on account of Miss Graves's absence in America, will curtail somewhat my opportunities ~~ta~~ in the Bible-work; but I hope still to retain my connection with it, and with Mrs. Locke's assistance, to maintain a watch-care over it.

With affectionate regard,
Yours sincerely, Ellen M. Stone.

June 9. 1886
Samokov.

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Samokov, May 2, 1887

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary, Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

The proof of a portion of the next number of the Missionary News has just passed under my hand, in which I see an allusion to the Baby Organ which your Sabbath school in West Roxbury has started on its way to help in the good work in Bulgaria. I am not willing that you should see the first acknowledgment of your gift, in type, and so am incited to write you immediately, to forestall the arrival of the News, and the mission reports, if that may be.

The Annual Meeting of our mission and also that of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, both of which were expected to be held in Monastir this year, were, with very short notice to us, arranged to meet in Samokov this year, as, in the present political condition, it was not deemed best for either gathering to be held in Macedonia. We enjoyed the meetings, and should have been glad if our brethren of the Bulgarian Society had not been so fearful of being burdensome that they previously arranged for a very small attendance upon their meeting, and finished up their business in two days and a half, instead of three and a half, as usual. We were very glad of the presence of Mr. A. S. Isanoff, the acting-pastor of the church in Sophia, as delegate to the Mission from the Evangelical Society, and also of Rev. N. I. Boyardjieff of Pazardjik, at several sessions. The latter is appointed delegate ~~of~~ to our meeting for next year. These brethren are, as is to be expected, greatly interested in the consideration of the question of the occupation of Serres. They feel that it is of vital importance for the success of the work in Macedonia. The question was quite fully considered; ~~and~~ the more so, inasmuch as Rev. T. R. Sampson of Salonica, a missionary of the Southern Presbyterian Society, working among the Greeks, was present at our meeting, and presented the arguments why the Board should not occupy Serres as a missionary fex station. I must confess, however, to an increasingly strong feeling, on my own part, that as soon as God's providence shall send along the right man, with the Greek and Bulgarian languages, and readiness to break new ground, there are no *sufficient* reasons against the occupation of Serres by such a missionary *to the Bulgarians*, chiefly in the outlying regions, to prevent him from going thither. I would like for one, to leave in good hands here, in this more developed region, the work among the women, and to go down into that hitherto almost entirely unworked field, and begin there the work among the women which is now going forward so encouragingly in many parts of Northern and Southern Bulgaria, under the fostering care of the Bible-women, pastors or preachers and their wives, and the missionaries. God will surely reveal His will, if we but watch the signs of the times.

Mr. Sleeper's request for leave to visit America with his family took us all by surprise, as we had been made acquainted by him previously with another plan—that of being a ~~singing~~ musical evangelist for a year— which he proposed to submit to the An. Meeting. That plan, so far as I could understand it, seemed to me impracticable, but Mr. & Mrs. Sleeper are able to accomplish whatever they undertake, and they might be able to do this, if it were decided to be best for them to undertake it. They have made for themselves so large and important a place, that all of us, Americans and Bulgarians, are wondering how the work is to go on without them. It seemed clear that, under the circumstances, the Mission must acquiesce in their going home, much as it is to be deprecated that they felt that they must go now. Some way will be provided for the maintenance of the work, without the breaking down of the few who are left. This week's Congregationalist mentions the presence of Dr. & Mrs. Kingsbury at a farewell meeting April 6, so we begin to think of their return as near. Miss Graves's last letter, received to-day, says that she cannot leave home upon her return to Samokov, until after June.

Many times during the past year, we have wondered why Mr. Haskell, formerly of this Mission never received through the Missionary Rooms, notification of the action of the Mission, at its last An. Meeting last year, requesting that he be sent back. This request is repeated this year, and very urgently, indeed this Station cannot see how the schools and the touring work which falls to its share, are to go forward with only the force which we be here after Mr. Sleeper leaves. Mr. Haskell's return is very much desired.

You inquired, Dr. Clark, in one of your letters which I now have the honor of acknowledging, how the problem of the better accommodation of the Girls' School was settled. Last fall it was voted that house No. 2, now occupied by Mr. Sleeper, should be at the disposal of the school after the 10th of next July. Miss Maltbie and Miss Graves felt quite sensitive about this decision, lest it should make Mr. & Mrs. Sleeper feel a little that they had the disposition to take their home from them, which was far from being their wish; and they insisted that the balance of the £ 350 which should remain after making necessary repairs on the school-building, should be transferred to Mr. Sleeper, for a new house for himself. There was hesitation about voting for the erection of another building, and there the matter rested. Miss Graves and Miss Maltbie plan to occupy that house with their domestic affairs largely, and the library and museum of the school. Time will show how well this plan works.

One letter from you, Dr. Clark, was based upon the transfer which might be necessary to be made, had Miss Graves wished to go to Monastir, as Miss Cole wished her to go. Miss Graves left the matter with the Mission, and it was quickly decided that no such reason for changing her existed, such as should lead them to recommend it, while there were many and weighty reasons, in view of her remaining here. We are all anticipating her return to the work which she loves, next July or August. In the meantime, I am staying on here, and must be here through July, when the training-class for Bible-women will gather here. It will number twelve or thirteen this year probably.

In one letter, you allude to Mrs. Mumford's work, with an inquiry as to how it affects our work. This year, she has rested, having but six girls in her establishment, and keeping up the appearance of a day-school, at the same time, she rented her large school building to some friends of hers, unmarried officers with their soldiers for servants; this has given rise to a great scandal, and to much remonstrance with Mrs. Mumford, from her friends, but she persisted. This week she has left Philippopolis for England, taking with her a young Bulgarian girl whom she has adopted. She goes at the call of Mrs. Dr. Mahan, who is suffering again from a cancer. Mr. Joseph Cook will be interested to know this fact as he has been heard to say that the case of Mrs. Mahan of

London, cured by faith of a cancer, was the only well-authenticated case of cure in organic disease, of which she was aware. Mrs. Mumford herself told Mrs. Dr. I. G. Bliss that Mrs. Mahan is again ill of cancer, & had sent for her. Mrs. Bliss told us so that the information may be trusted. During her absence, Mrs. Mumford proposes to have the work of putting a third story upon her school-building, going on, under the superintendence of Pastor Kouzandjieff of Kailudere, but Mr. Marsh & Mr. Locke may feel called upon to make some representations to him of his duties to the Board, as one of its employés.

We are rejoiced to think of you as back again in your room, and pray God to spare you many, many years to come.

With affectionate regards to yourself and Mrs. Clark, also to your co-laborers, I am

Sincerely yours dear Dr. Clark,
Ellen M. Stone.

Samokov, May 21, 1887.
Rec'd June 4.

Hotel Müller, Vienna,
Sept. 3, 1887

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;—

Your letter of Aug. 6 reaches me here this morning, having been forwarded from Samokov. Please do not think me "out of health" or "in poor health," because I am here, for neither supposition is true. The year of teaching was a long one for me and my Bulgarian assistant, as the Training-Class gathered in Samokov, and continued in session five weeks, immediately following the close of school. When the members of the class scattered again, I was very tired, and ready to accept the recommendation of Mr. & Mrs. Locke as well as of the members of the Samokov Station, including Mrs. March of Philippopolis, who is spending the summer in Samokov,— that I must take a rest somewhere, to be in condition for next year's work. When Mr. House returned from his trip to Vienna, Prague, and Dresden, he warmly recommended th any of us, seeking rest in change, should go in tha direction. As my assistant, Miss Evanka Akrabova, ha suffered very greatly by reason of defective teeth,— f several years, Miss Maltbie a I had felt for months th

she must go either to Vienna
or Constantinople, to have a
dentist's care, for there is no
dentist nearer than these
ities, in whom we would
have any confidence for
more than the extraction of
teeth. So we decided to come
rther, and Samokov Station,
cting in behalf of Philippop-
lis Station," voted: Unanimously
nd heartily that we approve
iss Stone's taking a health trip
Vienna, at her own expense."
he words "health-trip" were their
wn, as I did not ask their approv-
l of my trip, as a "health-
rip." We are in the care of
E. M. Thomas, a German,
american-born, and the most
killful dentist it has been my

good fortune to consult. He
finds, to my surprise, much
to do in my teeth, as well
as in my assistant's, but it
will be more economical
to have our mouths put in
thorough condition now, th
we must thereby forego making some
purchases which we had thoug
needful - than it would be
to delay the matter. I would
like you to know, Dr. Clark, th
Dr. Thomas is very kind to m
He voluntarily reduces his pri
and when I hesitated about u
taking the necessary work
upon my teeth, because I
had not anticipated such a
emergency, - he assured me th
my credit would be perfect
good, although I have given

I shall not, however, incur indebtedness.

no reference. He has twice done
some work for Miss Maltbie. We
re staying at Hotel Müller, 19 Graben, which
s very near to Dr. Thomas's, and
where the proprietor, Mr. Häck,
speaks English, and shows us all
needful kindness. We have a
ack, upper room for 3 florins a
ay, including service, and take
r meals principally at cafés
nd restaurants, as being cheaper
han in the hotel, and where
e can have access to English
apers. We came from Sophia by
age a Nish, and from Belgrade & Buda
th, by rail, third-class, and
urpose returning by steamer,
irst-class, direct from Vienna
Lom Palanka, as being less expen
ve and more restful. I am too
r a sailor to go otherwise than first

class on steamers; indeed second-class passengers on the Danube steamers have third-class accommodation.

This trip will of course require great economy of expenditure on my part, during the remainder of the year, but I thought it good economy for myself, and the wisest for my assistant. She is engaged to our friend Mr. Kirias, who is the first laborer among the Albanians, his countrymen, and we are anxious that she, who has been a pupil in, and graduate from, our school, and subsequently a fellow-teacher with us ~~four~~ five years, and my assistant in Bible-work for one year, shall be in the best condition possible, physical as well as mental and spiritual, to be a true helpmeet, to one whose works praise him, and whom we esteem as a brother in the Lord.

One thing is in my heart to say to you, Dr. Clark, viz:— That, since reading Mr. Baird appeal for the establishment of a mission among the Albanians,— which appeared, I think, in the July number of the *Herald*, I have felt strongly ~~that~~ if the Board decides to take up this work, and could approve of my going thither, I would be very glad to be one of the first workers among the Albanians. Our work among the Bulgarians is developing very encouragingly, it seems to me, and there are

and are to be so many worke
among them, both Bulgarian
and native, that it seems t
me that I can be spared t
a new and pioneer work, an
still my work here not suffer. I a
the more convinced of this fro
the fact that you have now,
Dr. Clark, in this letter which
is before me, proposed that
Miss Cole come to be with m
in my work; and Mrs. Locke
my loved cousin, proposed to
me some months since, tha
she herself be my associate
in the Bible-work during th
coming year; - whereas it i
my firm conviction that it
is not only a wiser economy
of force, but also a more eff
tive way of reaching the peo

in their homes, that two Americans should not be associated in the touring and visitation, but that one, with a native Bulgarian co-laborer can more successfully accomplish the task of coming near to the people. I have tried both methods, and this is my decided conviction, both from my own experience, and from the multiplied testimony of Bulgarian friends, as well as the majority of my missionary associates, I think. I have had two Bulgarian helpers, and propose take a third, upon the marriage of the one who is now with me. With Mrs. Locke's feeling that she could and would glad to do more, in touring—

and in the care of the Bible
work and workers, and with
her eminent qualifications
for this work, — do you wond
that I feel that the Bulgaria
work could easily spare me t
go on into the regions beyon

Your proposition concerning
Miss Cole surprises both Miss
Maltbie and myself. my con
nection with the school
has ceased, my goods are pack
and only await my return t
Samokov to be transported to
Philippopolis. By the way, shou
there not be some provision fo
meeting the expenses of the re
moval of myself and belong
to and from Samokov, from
Mission Treasury, as the trans
was made by vote of the M

I love the work of teaching in school, with the opportunities which it gives for close personal influence over the pupils,—and the rest of being at home in one place for nearly a year, has been so great that all burdens have seemed light in comparison. I love too the Bible-work, and its great opportunities, both among the workers, and directly among the people,—but the continual touring, incident thereto, is hard, I will confess. This is not said by way of complaint, but only as a fact. I do not shrink from returning to this, my new work for the Master, but go gladly, and thankful for the loving expressions of pleasant anticipations,

on the part of the workers, that
we are now to be nearer togeth

From the last number of
the *Missionary News*, from
Samokov, you have learned som
facts concerning the Training-
Class, but you cannot know how m
of satisfaction and joy there is in th
ing to help such a loving ban
of workers as God has raised up
among the women of Bulgaria

It was cause of regret to me t
leave Miss Maltbie, before Miss
Graves's return, but it seemed be
to us both, that I should not del
beyond the year for which Phil
Station approved of my going
to Samokov. Miss Maltbie seems
very well, and I hope that M
Graves will return, ready to ta
up whatever duties are required

Miss Maltbie will of course reply
to your suggestion respecting
iss Cole's being in Samokov, with
er until the time of Miss Graves's
eturn;—so I will only say that from
hat I know of the feelings which
ave existed upon both sides, I
nnot think that this would be
esirable, nor would Miss Maltbie
hink it needful, while, from
hat I have written above, you
ill see that it does not seem
eedful that she come into the
ible-work, even temporarily. Who
ould open the Monastir school,
ere she not to return in Septem
r? Surely not Rada, her young
ulgarian assistant, and she has
o other, unless she has succeeded
in perfecting the negotiations
hich she had begun, with
nother graduate of the Samokov

School, who has had but one year's experience. It seems to me that Miss Cole must return immediately to resume her work in Monacti if she is to return at all. In all this, I have said nothing about the inevitable effect upon Miss Cole herself, if she were to know that any such proposition had been made.

Forgive the freedom and length of my writing. I have made no mention of the arrival of the "Baby Orga because I do not know that it has arrived, but will inform y when I know. The young work to whose care I will entrus is greatly delighted with th prospect of using it, and sa

attracting many persons to
the services for prayer, in
the two places in which she
is the only worker. Mr. Sleeper
left his Baby Organ at my direc-
tion, during his vacation, and
that has gone to Baneko,
nd will be the only organ
n all the Razlogue field, with
its seven centers of evangelical
influences. If the Bible-work
ad two more in hand to-
ay, they could be well
laced, in the hands of young
eachers who could make
hem useful adjuncts in
heir Bible-work. The second
ge is the most profitable in-
stment. Do you know of some-
ne who wants to send them?
With sincere regards to yourself
Mrs. Clarke, and your associates, I am,
dear Dr. Clarke, Yours truly, Ellen M. Stone.

associated teachers, and as Bible-workers — a relation which has continued nearly nine years — has fitted her to give just the assistance which I need, as no one else can give it. Her labors are very acceptable too among the Bulgarians, and in no small degree have given me entrance among them. I know not whom God may have provided for me in the future, unless indeed the Board decides to take up the Albanian work as part of its own, and to send me thither, — but I feel just as Rev. Robert Thomson expresses himself in a recent letter to me, referring to the fact that the circumstances of Mr. Locke's and Mr. Marsh's families, as well as my own convictions of what is best for the growth of the Bible-work, necessitate my taking a house, — he

Philippopolis,
Oct. 3, 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,

My dear Dr. Clark;-

Do you need the assurance that our thoughts are very often with the dear Board at home, and that our prayers ascend to the Lord of the Harvest-Field, that He will grant to its officers and members abundant grace for the needs of these days thro' which it is now passing? Throngs who love to attend its annual meeting, are now journeying toward Springfield, and those entrusted with the conduct of the meetings & the care of the attending multitudes, are heavily pressed with their burdens. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abide with you, one and all, and the Spirit of God so ~~abide~~ fill ~~in~~ all hearts, that everything shall combine to promote the advancement of His Kingdom in the earth!

It is now two weeks since I reached Philippopolis from Samokov, and I have just secured a house for twenty liras Turkish a year, with the right to retain it five years, if I wish, or to leave it at any time by giving two months' notice previously. I hope to move into it, in a day or two, and to get settled as quickly as possible, that I may be free to visit the teachers and Bible-women, and see how they do. You will sympathize with me, I am sure, Dr. Clark, in the prospect that

I must soon lose my assistant, in the Bible-work, Miss Evanka S. Akrabova, but what will be the loss to this form of the work, and to the Samokov school, where she has been for five years a teacher, having been recalled last year with myself, — will be gain to the work in Macedonia, for she is engaged to marry our friend, Mr. G. D. Kirias of Monastir, who is the pioneer laborer among his own nation the Albanians, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Thomson, of the British & Foreign Bible Society. It is possible that I may be able to have Miss Akrabova's assistance during these autumn months, if her arrangements will allow it; if so, I shall feel strong indeed, for our long friendship and relationship of helpfulness— first as teacher & pupil, then as

I must soon lose my assistants

said:— "You are not going to live absolutely alone, are you? You will have some companion surely — more, I mean, than a mere servant, with you? I think you should not forego the helps of social intercourse and companionship entirely." I had not referred to this subject to Mr. Thomson; this expression of his is quite voluntary. Mr. & Mrs. Clarke, with whom Miss Akrabova and I have made our home, when in Samokov, since we have been together in the Bible-work, have repeatedly expressed themselves very strongly in favor of the continuance of our relation as fellow-workers. It seems to me very clearly to be God's plan for us, until He calls my helper to a position of greater responsibility as Mr. Kiria's wife. I have referred to the matter at this length, as due to Miss Akrabova, and because some of my missionary associates have felt inclined to question the wisdom of our working together—Miss A. and myself, because a strong and enduring personal friendship exists between us—as tho' there would be some special virtue in associating with myself some one who would be less congenial and so less helpful to me. I have yet to hear the first word of unfavorable criticism from any of our Bulgarian friends, who are well aware that we are good friends and associates in our work. They are perfectly satisfied with it as a helpful relation for us and for them—and it takes nothing from any of my missionary associates, which they have a right to expect from me.

We have no word yet from the organ which was sent by your S. School; where can it be? I want it very much.

Do you know of any one who wants to send another—or two more—for the Bible Department? With sincere rega

I am, my dear Dr. Clark,

Yours truly,

Ellen M. Stone

Miss Ivanka Vlanva in Nova Zaropa, on ~~Wednesday~~ Tues. evening of this week, the first object upon which my eyes rested was the little organ, of which you wrote me so long ago, as having been sent by the West Roxbury Sabbath school. I had quite despaired of it, and was resolved to write you from that place, of its probable loss, when lo! it was found! It had arrived the previous Friday evening. On Wednesday evening, we had a little service of prayer and praise, and Ivanka made sweet music with the organ, much to the delight of us all. She will add a note of thanks for the Sabbath school. I too am very thankful to you for your kind offices, and shall be glad to help some other Sabbath schools to place more organs in the hands of our Bible-workers. I would prefer the se size & those with folding legs, if possible to obtain them. With sincere regards to your family, your associates, and yourself, I am

Yours faithfully,
Ellen M. Stone.

E. M. Stone —

Hasquey, So. Bulgaria,
Nov. 19, 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., —
For. Secy. of the Am. Board; —
Dear Dr. Clark; —

Pardon me because I cannot refer to your last letter by date, as I thank you for it. I found it awaiting my return from Bansko and the surrounding villages of the Razlog, Macedonia, seventeen days ago, but as I had but a single day to remain in Philippopolis, before starting out upon this present tour, it was impossible to answer it more promptly.

I note what you say with

Nov. 22 — I find here one charge for the organ but will wait for Mr. Peet's next statement before reporting it. E. M. S.

reference to the probable impracticability for the American Board to open a new mission in Albania at present, and am content. I did not write you about my desire to go into this new work, should it be commenced, because I desire a change for the sake of change, or because for any reason I wish to leave my present work, but only because that will be a new and a pioneer work, and so perhaps will seem to many not so desirable. You know the force of example, and I was thinking more of this with reference to some of our own workers, as well as of the fact that a special door *might* be opened for me in Albania, because of my relations to the first Albanian worker. I am content, however, to allow the matter to rest, and to continue to devote myself to developing the Bible-work among women.

We are now thankful to number thirteen Bible-women working in the out-stations of the Samokov and Philippopolis fields; one of these has just been added to the number – a wife + mother, who for two years has been praying that God would lead her into this work; now the door seems opened, and she enters it with rejoicing of heart.

As I entered the home of

to remember to pray for her, and so will strengthen and encourage her most of all.

Last evening we received word of the falling asleep of our dear "Mother Riggs". Her husband sent us a singularly sweet and simple recital of the manner of her departure. May God comfort him, and spare him yet many years, to do a work for the Bulgarians as well as for other nations, which no one else can do so well as he.

The forty-one days of my absence from Philippopolis during October and November, & the work incident to settling in my own hired house, have hindered correspondence until now, but I do congratulate you ~~all~~ and all officers and members of the dear old Board, upon the verdict rendered at Springfield.

With aff. regards, Yours truly Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd. Jan. 2, '88.

Philippopolis,

Dec. 10, 1887.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., For. Sec'y. Am. Bd.,

Dear Dr. Clark;-

As my pen was in hand to write a note to accompany the enclosed from Miss Mehova, yours of Nov. 17 was handed to me. Please accept my thanks for this, your kind notification of the help of the young people in our home church, for the educational work, which falls under my cognizance, and to a degree under my care. These young people last year paid the £37. for several of the stipendiaries in the Girls' Boarding-School in Samokov, in whole or in part, and having become interested in the girls, wished to continue to do ~~so~~ for the current year. I will try to use the money wisely and well.

As my previous letter informed you, the organ which ~~the~~ Sabbath school in West Roxbury sent out for use in the ~~Bible~~ Department of Bible-Women's Work, arrived at last, to the great joy of the young worker who is to use it. Now I have the pleasure of enclosing to you the note of acknowledgment which she sends to the givers. I have made no corrections in her work, as it is sufficiently clear to have its meaning understood, I think. This young lady, who graduated from the Samokov school a year ago last summer, is not yet twenty years old. She is short in stature and petite in form, with dark hair and eyes. I think that the ladies of the Woman's Board have the photograph of this class; but if not, my Mother has it, and I am sure she would be most happy to loan it, so that the young people in the West Roxbury Sabbath school may become acquainted with the face of their correspondent. She is an earnest young Christian, but timid and inexperienced, and finds her field of work quite discouraging. They will be sure

Philippopolis, Jan. 26, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Sec'y. of Am. Board, —

My dear Dr. Clark; —

I have the pleasure of acknowledging your letter of Dec. 30, which reached me a few days since. Please accept my thanks for it. Encouraging reports come from our young sister, who continues to be very happy with the organ, and who because of its good cheer is working with new courage, and so with new success. Since I was with her in November, she has succeeded in gathering a Sabbath school class of children in her home. Letters from two other Bible-women have reached me within a week, telling of their joy in visiting new homes, to which they have lately been invited for the first time, and which now have gained sufficient courage and resolution to welcome the Woman's Weekly Prayer-Meeting. On Monday, Pastor Bozardjieff was in the city, *en route* to Merichleri with Mr. Locke, to re-organize the now reviving church in that village. He was enthusiastic over his evening-school of young men, numbering about twenty students, five or six of them regular and intelligent attendants upon the Sabbath services. One of them, a Turk, eighteen years of age, gives great promise, and his mother also visits the pastor's home, and assures them over and over again, that she hopes her son will become a Christian, a Protestant, for, she says, 'they don't lie and steal, and do other bad things.' It seems that Christ's professed followers in Pazardjik are commending the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, by their lives. They have a wise, experienced leader! Pastor Boyardjieff is such a comfort to us all! He is a strong loving brother. I wish I could say the same for his co-worker, Pastor Tonjoroff, of this city. The winter has been so exceptionally cold, and after my tour in Bansko I had a persistent but not at all painful cough for six weeks or two months. — so I have not toured at all since the ~~end~~ middle of November. Having had opportunity, therefore, to be quite regularly in the church and Sabbath school here, I have had an opportunity to observe the working of affairs, ~~here~~, and am greatly burdened in heart thereby. There is a tender feeling on the part of some attendants upon the church services, as is evidenced by the attendance upon the prayer-meetings. These prayer-meetings have now for three months been left to run themselves, with no leader, the pastor having once announced that as the appointed leader had several times failed, henceforth, until further notice, there should be no leader of these meetings, but every attendant should be free to participate as the Spirit moved him. Our minds were much enlightened as to the reason for the pastor's taking this course, when we learned a few weeks ago, that Mrs. Tonjoroff is a member of the Society of Friends, in England. She and her husband are

just now too much absolved in fitting
up the third house which they have
to observe, the softened attitude of heart, among some of their people.
built,— This, house ~~one~~ has ~~having~~ been erected,
and it now appears is to be
during the last summer, ~~as~~ a hospital—
Mrs. Tonjoroff's "Cottage Hospital," for which
her husband collected a sum of money—
£200, it has been told me, while he
was in England last year. The Society of
Friends gave this help, and will furnish
the hospital, but Mrs. Tonjoroff must
provide the running expenses; for these
she proposes to petition the City Govern-
ment for help, and has petitioned the
Princess Clementina, Prince Ferdinand's
mother, at present the guest of our
city, and from the latter has received
the promise of aid. Pastor Tonjoroff had a
crowded house last Monday evening, at
a Magic Lantern Exhibition given in the
church, the proceeds of which, "for the sick,"
as vaguely advertised, are all given to
Mrs. Tonjoroff for this hospital.— The church
has had but two communion services in sixteen
or more months, gives no opportunity for the
baptism of children,— and the pastor

wonders why the wheels of the Master's chariot drag so heavily, and plans a Salvation Army Work, whereas it is as plain to us as it is that God is ready to bless the faithful preaching of His Word everywhere and always, that the reason is to be found in the spiritual condition of our pastor himself. I have said no word of what an uncomfortable position the missionaries here hold, chiefly because of the attitude of Mrs. Tonjoroff toward them, and the ascendancy which she has over her husband's opinions. You may wonder why Mr. Marsh and Mr. Locke do not have plain talks with Pastor Tonjoroff. I have wondered, and have told them so many times, and so have their wives, but they have talked with him ~~done so~~ in the past, and with such poor success that they became discouraged. Mr. Marsh, however, promised to go this week, for even Pastor Boyardjieff thought that the missionaries were doing wrong to allow matters to go on in this way, without a vigorous protest, lest worse should befall the church. The missionaries have hesitated more about the expediency of pushing matters to an issue, because they know that Mr. & Mrs. Tonjoroff have before applied to the Society of Friends, to be taken up and supported by them, and if they leave the service of the Board, they have deliberately planned to take the entire church with them, or to cause a division in it, — for Mrs. Tonjoroff told this to Mrs. Marsh and to myself, one day when we were calling there.

I am very sorry to tell you such a story, dear Dr. Clark, but I think you ought to know some of the facts concerning the situation here. This is of course entirely in confidence, not for the public. God will make His own cause to prosper in His own time, but we want the prayers of our friends at home, that we may hold on in faith and meekness, awaiting that time. — Yours sincerely, Ellen M. Stone.

Philippopolis, Jan. 26, 1888.
Rec'd Feb. 21.

Philippopolis, Feb. 15/3 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.,

Foreign Secretary of the American Board;—

Dear Dr. Clark;—

I'n answer to your note of Jan. 12, I beg leave to express the hope that I have not misunderstood your injunction to report all charges upon the organ; to you. I intended to do only what you had personally requested me to do, for I would rather pay much more than the sum reported back to Mr. Ward, $3.50, as the expenses upon the last organ, charged at this end, rather than that any one should feel disheartened from attempting to provide us with one or two more, of which our workers are in need.

I am glad to report to you that last Saturday evening, we had a most excellent Preparatory Lecture, from Pastor Tonjoroff, and Sabbath afternoon, after the ordination of a most estimable man to the office of deacon, the Pastor, assisted by Mr. Marsh, administered the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, I hasten to acquaint you with this fact, because of the statements in my last letter, that ~~it~~ they may not mislead you, as to the condition of affairs at the present moment.

All of us here in Philippopolis who are known as Christ's followers, have need of the enduring power of the Holy Spirit, in increased measure, that we may be able to go forward in the face of the difficulties which here beset Christ's work. Pray for us!

Sincerely yours, with affectionate regard,

Ellen M. Stone.

Philippopolis, Jan. 26, 18[illegible]

Rec'd Feb. 21.

Philippopolis, So. Bulgaria,
Oct. 7. 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary Am. Board,
Dear Dr. Clark,

Your note of Sept. 24 arrived to-day, and I thank you most cordially for it, and for the very friendly assurance which you give me of the interest which you feel in the work which you and the Board have in a measure committed to my care. I have great comfort in it, in many of its phases, and feel increasingly encouraged by the wise and cordial co-operation of the Pastors and preachers with me and with our sisters who are in the Bible work. Because of this, the work itself is now being estimated more nearly at its true value, as underlying all other Christian work. You are aware, I think, that the number of our workers — of the sisters, I am writing particularly, is quite limited this year. The oth

[illegible] to acquaint you with the facts
[illegible] of the statements in my last
letter that they may not [illegible]
to the condition of affairs at the present [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] as Christ [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] power of the Holy
Spirit is increased [illegible], that we
may be able to go forward in the
[illegible] which has [illegible]
Christ's work. Pray for us.
Sincerely yours with affectionate
regards
[illegible]

Philippopolis, Feb. 15, 1888
Rec'd Mar. 6

Philippopolis, So. Bulgaria,
Oct. 9, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary Am. Board;
Dear Dr. Clark,—

Your note of Sept. 24 arrived to-day, and I thank you most cordially for it, and for the very friendly assurance which you give me of the interest which you feel in the work which you and the Board have, in a measure, committed to my care. I have great comfort in it, in many of its phases, and feel increasingly encouraged by the wise and cordial coöperation of the pastors and preachers with me and with our sisters who are in the Bible-work. Because of this, the work itself is now being estimated more nearly at its true value, as underlying all other Christian work. You are aware, I think, that the number of our workers — of the sisters, I am writing particularly, is quite limited this year. The school in Samokov graduated no class this year, and the ranks of the Bible-women had no recruits from the graduates of two years since, as the three who went into the work were required for positions in schools. We pray and expect that God will show us some prepared hearts among our older and more experienced sisters, who shall join the few Bible-women in the field, and do a service for their sisters in this land, which our younger workers, fresh from school, cannot do.

I had a word just now with one of the book-sellers, just home from a few days' trip among some of the villages in the immediate vicinity of Philippopolis. He reports a prosperous time, even though he was expelled from one large village, by the magistrate, who quoted the law in ~~defen~~ justification of his action. So our book-seller, an ex-soldier of the late war, has come back to learn what the is, and then proposes to go to that village again. His expulsion necessitates his going again, he says. That pluck has the right ring to it.

Next week I expect to go to Hasquey, and hope to see a church organized there, and a pastor ordained, before going on to the regions beyond. Returning from this tour, I hope to go to Macedonia, and if Pastor Sichanoff and Ka Mr. Petkanchev, the book-seller for that region can go then, to visit once more the villages which I visited in company with Dr. House, a number of years ago, between the Razlogue and Serres and Kavala. Please ask Christians in America to pray in faith for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the Protestant churches and pastors and teachers in Bulgaria, and so upon the entire nation, for whom we profess to work with all the earnestness of our souls, consecrated to present Christ to this people.

Praying that you may have a great blessing upon the meeting of the

Board in Cleveland, and asking affectionate remembrance to Mrs. Clark, & to your coadjutors in the Rooms, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

P. S. We are all well in this Station -

Philippopolis -

Oct. 9. 1888

Nevrokope, Macedonia,
Nov. 22, 1888.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D., Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board,

Dear Dr. Clark; —

Having been out a little more than a month upon fall touring, I gladly take advantage of a late start this morning, as the day's journey will be a horseback ride of only six hours, to write a note to you, to tell you of some of the impressions thus far made upon my mind, by the visits which I have been able to make among the evangelical communities thus far.

First let me say that yesterday, a most welcome day of resting from journeying, necessitated by waiting for the colporteur who is to accompany us into the parts of Macedonia lying beyond this place, — I found the first opportunity which I have had, to read the reports in ~~of~~ the Congregationalist and the Cleveland Leader, of the meeting in Cleveland. Thank God for the harmony and fraternal coöperation there shown, and for the spirit of advance in some measure commensurate with the everywhere opening harvest field. Such an advance in giving on the part of the church of God must come; the rousing of the desire in the souls of thousands of young men and women, to consecrate themselves to God in the foreign missiona service, is the harbinger of it,— the sure tok of its coming. God never so stirs the hearts of His young followers to follow closely after the Master, only to have them rebu and thrown back upon themselves by the word that there is no means to send them to the places to which He is leading them. Should the churches, to whom God has entrusted in so large a measure, the means for the evangelization of the world, and to whom He will entrust mo and more, if they are wise and faithfu stewards, is coming an increasing apprehension, I think, that they are truly God's stewards, and that "it is required of a ste ard that he be found faithful." Increasingly I am impressed with the fact that if as churches or as individuals, we refuse to enter into some opportunity of usefulne which God opens before us, we harm our own souls, by shutting out from ourselves the in-created blessing which our Lord waited to bestow upon us through our faithful exercise of the powers which we previously possessed. We shall not so much hinder the Master's work, as we harm our own souls. Miss Maltbie lately wrote me some very true words relative to the going of so many young men to America, of late, when they had reached an advanced point in their studies at Samokov. She said: "The salvation of Bulgaria does not depend upon those who go to America, but upon those who stay"; so we need not feel so much cast down by this fact, but seek among humble, consecrated souls those who are to be the preachers of righteousness in Bulgaria, in place of those who leave an opportunity here which angels might covet, to go to America to seek to gain more for themselves. What leanness they bring upon their own souls! The experience of those who have returned to Bulgaria is to me exceedingly impressive as an illustration of how God rejects those who have refused His way of fitting for His work here, and is exalting some very humble brethren to positions of great spiritual usefulness. He will raise up witnesses for His truth even from the stones, if the sons of the Kingdom refuse to speak.

Everywhere I am impressed with the truth that the Bulgarian nation, whether found in Bulgaria or in Macedonia, is open to the preaching of the gospel as never before and is found in a waiting, responsive attitude. Is not this then the time to cry unto the Lord of the Harvest to endue His workers here with power from on High, that they may put in the sickle and reap, for His honor and glory? — When have we had a year of such signal advance in church work, in the history of the Bulgarian Mission, as this year now closing? Three young pastors installed over as many churches; a church organized, one fine new building dedicated, two
the Constitution for the churches prepared and adopted;
more, humble houses of worship, begun; and beyond and above this, such an outreaching on the part of consecrated men and women to be used by the Master, in His service, as I have never met here before? It is a time for encouragement, not of discouragement, for the work of God in Bulgaria, a time for earnest prayer work. May God give us of His own power!

With sincere regards, yours truly,

Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd Dec 17

415.

Sophia, Bulgaria,
Jan. 23, 1889.

Rev. E. K. Alden, D.D., Home Secretary of the Am. Board,

Dear Dr. Alden;—

Please accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me Dr. Peloubet's Songs New and Old, and the Am. Board Almanac, for this year, as also for the two previous years, and for the Life of Dr. Constans L. Goodell, as well as Dr. Prof. Phelps's last volume, whose title I cannot recall exactly, at this moment. I am very grateful to you for your remembrance of me, in sending me these very valuable helps in my work. I wanted them all for my own reference library, from which to loan them to those who might wish, but last summer I could not resist the impulse to give my copy of Dr. Goodell's Life, although I had only taken a taste from this feast, here and there, to my friend, Mr. Koinás, whom God has raised up to be the pioneer in His work among the Albanians. From his letter of acknowledgment, after reading the book, I send you an extract or two, believing that you will be glad to know directly from him, of the benefit which he has received from it. "I want to express my heartfelt thanks for this gift, which has done me much good. It helped me to think more and more of my condition and unworthiness, and made me devote and consecrate myself newly to my Saviour and His work, and made me also think more deeply of the shortness of life, and the importance of the great work to be done by God's servants. I have felt lately the need of God's grace and spirit as I never did before." The good to be accomplished by this volume is by no means finished yet. Mr. Kirias has a younger brother, a noble young man, who has a year or two more in the Coll. and Theo. Institute in Samokov, in order to complete his course, and then he will join his brother in work among his countrymen. Meantime the older brother is the Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and through the three colporteurs under his care, is sowing the "good seed of the Kingdom" in unevangelized Albania.

Now, my dear Dr. Alden, I come to you about a matter which has occupied my thoughts a good deal, during the last ten days. Upon coming to Sophia, and participating in the service of the Lord's Supper with the little church here, a week ago last Sabbath, I found to my surprise that they have no communion service! Here in the capital of Bulgaria, the communion was spread upon a table which the white homespun cloth barely sufficed to cover, and the bread was passed to the communicants from a blue-edged saucer, not even china, but common earthenware, and the wine in a cheap glass goblet! The elements were just as precious ~~in their~~ as reminders of the unspeakable love which prompted our Lord to lay down His life for us sinners, but to my heart there was something almost incongruous in the humbleness of their method of presentation. I have consulted with the present acting-pastor, Rev. N. T. Bozardjieff of T. Pazardjik, and find that no steps have been taken to procure a communion service, although they feel their great need of one. They have strained hard to complete their house of worship, with the help of friends here, and the generous aid of the Board and of Hon. J. A. Lane of Boston, but must lift again to remove the small debt which rests upon the house. They must also make more settees, and very much need to put up some kind of a partition to provide them with a small room for prayer-meetings, etc. Beside, in two months and a half from now, they have to ~~invite~~ entertain the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, which is for Bulgaria what the An. Meeting of Am. Home Missionary Society is in the United States. It is clear that it is impossible for the little church here to supply its needs for a suitable communion service of silver-plate, linen table cover and napkins, and a bell, so I have resolved to do what is in my power to help them. I have turned over and over in my mind the names of friends of mine with means and generous hearts, and yesterday had well-nigh decided to state the case to ~~Rev.~~ Hon. Rufus S. Frost of Chelsea; but last night and to-day it has seemed best to me to lay the matter before you, Dr. Alden, who hold in your hands so many chords of influence, and who will be sure to know how most surely and quickly to supply the great need of ~~but~~ God's church here. The eyes of a large part of the world are often upon Sophia. Wise men see not only the cloud of political trouble which has so long threatened this little land, but another cloud ominous in hue, of religious oppression and intolerance which seems fast settling upon us. Please do your best to find the generous hearts who will send us, as soon as possible, a large, full-toned but sweet bell, to sound out the gospel invitation; and also a communion service of silver-plate, to be comprised of two plates and a tankard that will hold at least three pints, and two silver goblets. The linen for the table-cover should be at least 2 metres in width by 3 1/2 in length. If a two or half dozen napkins be added, it will complete the furnishing of the Lord's table in His church in Sophia. If these articles can be received for use at the An. Meeting of the Evangelical Society, they will be exceedingly useful at the time of greatest need; but if they cannot be ~~received~~ secured and forwarded so soon, the friends here will be thankful for them whenever they can have them.

Do you say that I ask large things? The need is great, and the wealth of the Master of the feast is great. Should not His house be ~~suitably~~ appointed, in this first city of Bulgaria?

With affectionate regards to Mrs. Alden as well as to yourself, I am, my dear Dr. Alden,

Yours very sincerely,
Ellen M. Stone.

Committee do

Ans. " " 12

Sophia, Bulgaria,
Jan. 24/12, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Sec'y. of Am. Board;

My dear Dr. Clark;

I have the pleasure of acknowledging two letters from you, bearing date respectively, Oct. 27 and Dec. 17. The former was awaiting my *return* from Macedonia. I thank you heartily for your kind concern for my welfare, which you so often have manifested, and of which your letter of Oct. 27 is another proof. You expressed your preference that I should not make the long journey to lower Macedonia so late in the fall; but the journey was an accomplished fact, before your letter came to my hand, and as no harm has resulted to either of us travelers, I trust that you will not regard it with disfavor. Allow me to say *that* I am exceedingly well in health. Doesn't that look as if I were taking "good care of Miss Stone?" I would not *neglect* any nearer region for the sake of going into the regions beyond, but there are two missionaries and their families in Philippopolis, beside the pastor and his efficient wife, who never neglect an opportunity to remind us that they consider that we have no work in that city. It is evident that there is still a very great work to be done in that city, beyond the circle now reached by the Sabbath and other services of the church, and Mrs. Marsh and Mr. Locke also feel this, and are doing all they can to reach those who are outside. We are also making trial of maintaining a Bible-woman in that city, distinctively for work among those who are not otherwise reached by gospel influences. She is a former Bible woman, but now married and living in Philippopolis; she will give a portion of her time only, as her cares may allow her to give.

"Our Bible-women are earnestly at work, doing faithful service, and in a number of places also in the

Southern Bulgarian field, they are upheld and helped not only by preachers or pastors of more less experience, but also have the coöperation of pastors wives. I aim to visit all these workers twice every year, in the spring and fall, spending more or less time in visiting the parishes of each, and knowing personally both each worker and her work.

" Beside this, however, I feel a great unrest in my soul, and desire for the multitudes who are as yet unreached by the message of the gospel, whether they are found in So. Bulgaria, Bulgaria, or Macedonia, but especially in the latter province, because of the oppression to which they are there subjected. In Bulgaria, men and women can hear the gospel, more or less freely, if they will; but in some places in Macedonia, it is an impossibility for them to hear it. One instance will show you what I mean, and the one is the sample of all the villages, as a rule. One noon, Mr. Clarke, our bookseller, and myself, stopped to feed ourselves and our horses, in the village of

Kalipote. It was a holiday, and the men were gathered about the khans, and the women were not far from our stopping-place, all in holiday attire. As I went into the group of women, I could but marvel at the courtesy with which they received the stranger, and left their conversation, to listen to her words. It seems to me that I shall never forget their faces or their words, as they said: "What shall we do? We do not know, and there is no one to tell us!" I tried to encourage them to listen carefully when they go to church, to the reading of the gospels, as we can encourage the women in Bulgaria, where there is no evangelical worker, but that advice has no place in these Macedonian villages, where the service in the churches is in Greek, of which the women know nothing! The case was a hopeless one, unless I could say something to arouse the three stupid-looking priests, who were lounging by the khan-door. For the sake of those hopeless sisters of mine, who have no one to teach them, and to whose cry for help my heart

Sophia, Jan. 24, 1889.
Rec'd Feb. 11.

responded, I dared speak plainly to them, and beg them to arrange some plan by which those women can learn of Christ and the salvation which He has provided for their souls, - in their own language.

"The region of lower Macedonia is opening to the gospel, although these villages have no other opportunity to know of it than thro' the occasional visits of our wise-hearted, earnest bookseller, and the rare visits of some missionary or the pastor in Bansko, who is distant three or four days' journey." does not this show that we should be planning to occupy this part of the field as soon as practicable? I think that Mr. Clarke became fully persuaded of the necessity of occupying Serres as a station of the Board, as soon as may be; our Bulgarian friends are a unite about this, and have been urging it for several years. indeed Pastor Boyadjieff has told me since I came here now, that he feels that much valuable time has already been lost, in that Serres has not been occupied, and the evangelical work in that portion of the field begun to be put upon an established basis. Doubtless ~~tho~~ Mr. Clarke has written you of the encouraging service which he held in Serres, with upwards of twenty hearers, in our room at the khan. We were most kindly received by the Bulgarian teachers, both gentlemen and ladies, who feel so much ostracised by the Greek element, that they were quite willing to make common cause with us, notwithstanding that we are Protestants. If you ask: "Who could be spared to go to Serres?" I should answer at once that were it possible for another to take his place in Samokov, Dr. House is the man, who with all his heart longs to go there. He thinks that Mr. Baird could & would take his place in Samokov; I am not sure of that. If only Mr. Baird had the heart for it, he would seem to be the man for Serres, as he knows Turkish as well as Bulgarian, & perhaps Greek, while his wife is fluent in Greek, I understand.—

A fine carriage road is now completed to Salonica, a short distance by phaeton.

As to the time of our making this journey, experience has taught us that we can accomplish most work if we tour in Macedonia before the villagers begin their field work, in March, or after they have gathered in their crops in November. Beside the climate in lower Macedonia is milder than in Bulgaria. It was like September or early October, when we were there in early December. We have much hope for the work in Sophia. The friends are more united, although Dr. Martincheff is still in a sad state.

Sophia, Feb. 5, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary Am. Board;

Dear Dr. Clark;

This morning, while purposing to write to you, I came upon a letter from you, bearing date of July 19 last, which is not marked as answered, though I know that your later letters have been acknowledged. If this one has lain until now unanswered, I beg your pardon for the oversight; it has not been from lack of appreciation, for I well remember the great thankfulness which filled my heart, as I read your kind words.

You have long since learned that Miss Graves's withdrawal from the Girls' School in Samokov, has not made, and is not to make, any change in my work. Miss Maltbie has long wanted to work with only Bulgarian assistants – though doubtless she feels at times the need of an

American associate, who can enter into and appreciate her feelings under some circumstances, better than even the most loving Bulgarian assistant. While Miss Graves continues to make a home for her, however, she must find this need met. I feel, in accordance with the rest of the Mission, that another lady should be sent out to the school, as soon as a suitable one can be found, — for the strength of any of us may fail, at any time, and there should be another with some degree, at least, of preparation, to enter into either branch of the work. The school has now reached such a standard as to make large demands as to the capacities and qualifications of the one who shall be sent out next to be connected with it. It is the hope of several, at least, in the Mission, that this lady shall be a graduate of South Hadley College, and if to her training there, shall have been added some experience of work at home, that will by no means make her the less desirable.

Mr. Locke has sent me a copy of your letter, Dr. Clark, bearing date of Jan. 15. To this I want to answer what I intended to write in my previous~~ly~~ letter, that I most earnestly pray you, if it be possible, to grant the sums which lapsed last year, from the sums appropriated for Bible-work. The work needs every cent of this amount for the current year, in addition to all the contingents for which I asked, with the approval of the Mission. These two sums 2600 pias- for my assistant, and from the gen. wk. 26.95 " lapsed simply and only from lack of workers. 52.95

B.ul

The young lady, who was my last assistant, was dangerously ill for a part of the year, and from other circumstances unable to accompany me, and we had not other workers sufficient to fill the waiting places. This year, however, we are to have more workers, and shall need every cent asked for, and also the lapsed sums, if they can possibly be granted. I have allowed the appropriation asked for my assistant to be put among the contingents simply because I felt so sure that it would be granted. I remember how kindly you inquired, Dr. Clark, if I did not want an American associate in my work, and feeling that the present plan of taking a Bulgarian sister with me into the houses of the people, promised a larger degree of usefulness — as the event has proved it wiser, — I declined, but have always felt assured that the Board did not wish me to be obliged to take the long tours which are often necessary, without such an assistant. — The work already begun, and that which is opening before us, — demands all that we have asked for Bible-work in Macedonia & Bulgaria, and we pray God to send it to us. — Is this a time to relax our efforts or curtail our expenditure for the extension of Christ's Kingdom here, — when the old faith -Greek- seems to be shaken as never before, and the Roman Catholic Church is flourishing under the patronage and lavish aid of Prince Ferdinand and his mother?

With sincere regards, yours faithfully,
Ellen M. Stone.

Sofia, Feb. 5, 1891.
Rec'd Feb. 25.
Ans'd " 25.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE. BULGARIE.

ОТВОРЕНО ПИСМО

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Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.,
For. Sec'y. of the Am. Board,
1 Somerset St., Boston,
Mass., U. S. A.

1) На тая страна ся не дозволява да ся пише друго освенъ адресътъ.
2) Пощенско-то Управленіе не отговаря за съдържаніе-то на писмо-то.

Etats Unis d'Amerique.

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Sophia, Bulgaria,
Feb. 27/15 - '89

Dear Dr. Clarke; Please pardon a postal-card, as I have time this morning to write you only, to correct a wrong impression which I unwittingly gave you. I ~~have~~ learned since writing to you, ~~that~~ the action of the Turkish government to which I referred in my last letter, as closing our school in Bansko, is not a blow at the evangelical work as such, but against all Bulgarian schools in Macedonia, as so against the ~~liberty~~ freedom of that people to have their national schools. — With sincere regard, I am, as always,

Truly yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Re apr 20 89

Philippopolis, So. Bulgaria,
April 1, 1889.

Rev. E. K. Alden, D.D., Home Secy. Am. Board; —

Dear Dr. Alden;

Two letters from you, bearing date of Feb. 12, and Feb. 27, await acknowledgment. We were all deeply pained to learn that Dr. Clark had been again so seriously indisposed, but are thankful to believe that he is quite himself again, as some of our number have received letters from him, since the date of your letters to me.

Last Saturday, Mr. Locke informed me that he had received that day, the list of "Contingent" appropriations for the Bible-work, to which your letter of the 27th ult., had made reference. With all my heart I am grateful to you and to Dr. Clark, to the Prudential Committee, and to the Woman's Board, for this generous provision for this branch of the evangelical work in Bulgaria, during the current year.

I can but see in this grant, which is beyond what I dared hope for, the evidence that it is our Master's will that this branch of His service be pushed, to improve the opportunity which we can but see is opened before us as never before. I never felt more encouraged in the character of the Bible-women in the service at any time, than I feel about those who are now in it; they are consecrated to their work, and are watching for souls and finding them. We have just heard that in one village where we have for several years maintained a humble-souled Bible-woman, - whose consecrated life has become such a power that the Greek Church fears her, and feels obliged to take some measure to oppose her influence in the homes, ~~it has appointed~~ - a Bible-woman has been appointed from the national church. It is the first instance of which I have heard of the appointment of a Bible-woman, by them. We have known

Bible woman

of their so-called Sunday schools and children's meetings, appointed at the same hour with our services, to keep their children away from these meetings; we know of their printing sermons, and introducing preaching into their Sabbath services, and introducing other methods into their educational and church work, — stirred up to it by the evangelical work, and as ~~a~~ defensive measures; — but this is the first time that I have heard of the employment of a Bible-woman by them. I cannot learn that she has yet done more than to follow our worker about, and to try to counteract the impressions that she makes in the homes which ~~of~~ she visits. Very often I am reminded that Paul had such experiences in his ministry, for he writes of it to the Philippians; and I say with him: "What then, xx only that Christ is proclaimed, and therein I rejoice and will rejoice." You do find a place in your great heart, Dr. Alden, I believe, to pray that God will raise up for this branch of His work women of such power with Him and with souls, that He shall through them gather in rich sheaves from His harvest-field.

Your previous letter, with reference to supplying some of the urgent needs of the Sophia church, was a great disappointment to me, because I felt so strongly that the church needs its communion-service,# and if possible the bell, before the approaching meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society,—which opens April 25, and which will doubtless attract large attention;—that there are large-hearted givers to Christ's work in foreign lands, who would gladly do this thing for Christ's Church in the Capital of Bulgaria if they knew of the chance;—and thirdly, with your settlement of the matter by referring it to Dr. Mastricheff. Could you see this man, I think you would feel as I do that he is fast failing from the disease which is the scourge of his family,—and you would understand, that in his anxiety to provide for his family,# there is little hope that he will feel inclined to do anything toward carrying out your suggestion.

With sincere regards to Dr. Clark & Mrs. Alden, I remain, Yours faithfully, Ellen M. Stone.

Please accept my thanks for a copy of Dr. Pierson's—"The Crisis of Missions"—It is a rousing stimulating book.

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Rec'd W. H.

420.

Philippopolis, So. Bulgaria,
Apr. 2, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secy. Am. Board,
My dear Dr. Clark,—

It is good to have the assurance that you are once more in more comfortable health, so that you have been able to resume your duties at the office. I wonder if you can know what a difference it makes to many of us, who are in lands upon this side of the Atlantic, when the word comes that you are indisposed, and some one else must take your place for a few days. You may be sure that our prayers ascend to the Father of our spirits, and the Creator and Preserver of our lives, that your life and health may be very precious in His sight.

As I wrote so fully to Dr. Alden yesterday, I will make but one query of you, viz:—Does the Smith Organ Co. of Boston continue to make its donation to the Board, in organs? Mr. & Mrs. Locke ~~ob~~ obtained their organ in that way, and it has done and will yet do most excellent mission service in their hands

[illegible] this – Read last part
to learn of your regime – N. G. C.

The reason for my inquiry is this:— that we are very anxious to secure a good organ for the church in Pazardjik. The teacher there is a ready player and sweet singer, and has been very patient to make the best of an ancient harmonium, which was presented ~~by~~ to Pastor Bozardjieff by Rev. Robert Thomson. It is now sadly out of repair, and on every damp day wheezes so badly that sometimes it cannot be played on the Sabbath. The people are straining every nerve to try to help themselves, and I think they will be able, with the help of friends, to raise £7 or £8 possibly more. They need an~~y~~ organ of more volume and size for their audience-room than either of the Baby Organs, furnished by Mason & Hamlin, or than the new organ sent out by Mr. Sleeper from Worcester, which is not as desirable as the second size of the Baby Organ, in the estimate of the churches here, being insufficient in power. Could you see the throng of children who crowd this church every week for the praise service, and remain through the Sabbath schools you would thank God for this sweet singer of the songs of Zion— their teacher and speak to the man, whose heart the Lord will open to send her an organ, if you know him.— Yours truly, Ellen M. St

Rec'd Apr. 26

Philippopolis June 11, 1889.

ev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board,

My Dear Dr. Clark;—

Three favors from your pen, those of April 20, 25, and May 27, which arrived ast night, lie before me. Please accept my thanks for them, one and all.

The organ for the church in Pazardjik as been received there with great joy. A letter which I received from that church last night, xpressing their thankfulness for the services of the young lady, Miss Mareeka Raikova, who as been their teacher in their primary chool, and also their Bible woman, the past year as also for the two previous, — and begging that she be continued to them next year, — an arrangement to which I gladly accede, provided suitable arrangements can be made for her there, in case her uncle, Pastor Bozardjieff, continues in Sophia; — concludes by thanking the missio aries and especially the giver of the organ. I exp a letter from Miss Mareeka herself, but as the exa mination of her school occurs this week, of course she is very busy.

Concerning the money from the Floral Cheer Circle of the Third Church, Chelsea, allow me to assure you, my dear Dr. Clark, that I have most urgent need for it. I did not know until I was most unexpectedly notified by these young friends of mine, of their gift to the Lord's work in Bulgaria, how I should be able to meet the expense of the Scripture text cards, which Mrs. March and I have united to supply to all the Sabbath schools and to the workers in places where there are no Sabbath schools. It goes right into this branch of the regular work, and I am only too thankful for it. Of course very strict economy is necessary for me as I have, to meet from my salary, the expense of £20 T. L. a year, as rent fo my house, an expense which no other single lady in our Mission has; but circumstances compelled me to take my house, and I am thankful for it, and for the added facilities in my work which it gives.

Your letter of May 27 evidences to me that

Miss Ellen M. Stone 5
June 11 - 1889.
Rec'd June 26 - 1889.

my purpose in preparing the report of the Bible-work in this Mission for '88-'89, has been accomplished - viz.:- to allow the workers to speak for themselves, and for the work which which they are doing for God and their count

If it might be allowed, I wish that a request for special pray for all the Bible-women and teachers in Bulg ria might be made, during the month of July, when we shall be gathered in Samokov, for our training class, - that we may all be filled wit the Holy Ghost, and so accomplish the work whic God has limitlessly opened to Christian women in Bulgaria. — If you have any printed inform tion concerning that Mission Training School in Japa which you could send me, I would be very thankful to know more of its plan of working. - With sincere regards,

Very truly yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Koprivshtitza, Southern Bulgaria,
Aug. 31, 1889.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D., Foreign Secretary Am. Board; –
Dear Dr. Clark;

Many thanks to you for your favor of July 12, informing me of the gift of $25 from the Y. P. S. C. E. of the First Church, Chelsea. My young friends there are interested in the support of some of the stipendiaries ~~of~~ in the Girls' School in Samokov, and send to me direct for the maintenance of these scholars. I receive their money, and pay it to the treasurer of the school, just as Mr. Clarke yearly receives a draft from a lady in England, with which he pays for the tuition of several of the girls. I am very thankful for any such extra help, for many more calls come to me, which I want to undertake, – than my salary would allow me to help. It seems to me that our young people are helped in systematic, heartfelt giving as they make me, who went out from them, the channel of part of their specific benevolence.

Mrs. March and I have undertaken the task of supplying all the Evangelical communities with Bible-text cards; beside the communities, there are a multitude of places in Bulgaria and Macedonia, where there is no beginning as yet, of an Evangelical community, but where such cards are most ~~easily~~ eagerly welcomed, and remain in homes which have no other light of Christianity. In this work I have enlisted some of the children in America, for without their aid I cannot fulfill this demand. I am wanting even more money, for the printing of narrative leaflets, to be distributed in my touring. While the people are so *glad* to receive, ought we not to improve the opportunity, to put some verse or passage from God's Word into their hands, praying His good Spirit, to put them into their hearts?

Your letter reached me while I was in Samokov. The sessions of the Bible women in their yearly training-class, were exceedingly gratifying to me, as showing the spirit of harmony and loving coöperation which prevails between us, and the earnest, loving consecration of these our Bulgarian sisters to their Master and His work among their sisters in this land. This year, I was very fortunate in having again as my assistant in the Class, after ~~two~~ year's absence, Miss Akrabova, who was in former years my assistant, and who is greatly beloved by the class. She is to remain with me also, I hope, through the year, which will be compensation for the two years in which I have toured alone, the number of workers being too small to allow one of them to accompany me. As I read of Miss Bush and her associate living and touring together, I sometimes almost envy them the comfort they take; yet I am persuaded that for Bulgaria, it is better that a Bulgarian travel with me, and by this means we can come more closely into ~~the~~ family life.

We were very sad to be compelled to part with Miss Graves, but there was no appeal from her decision that she must resign her connection with the Mission. Her familiarity with the language,—the people testify to her beautiful use of it, especially in prayer,—and with the people, gained during her residence of more than eight years in Samokov,—makes her loss one which it will take years to make good. And it seemed so needless, from some points of view, that we should lose her!

Miss Cole's visit in Samokov seemed to do her good, as it did all of us who had the pleasure of her company. She is now very happy in her home and school life in Monastir, and was impatient to be again with Miss Matthews, to complete preparations for the opening of their with Bible-text cards; beside the communities, there are a multitude of places in Bulgaria and Macedonia, where there is no beginning as yet, of an Evangelical community, but where such cards are most ~~easily~~ eagerly welcomed, and remain in homes which have no other light of Christianity. In this work I have enlisted some of the children in America, for without their aid I cannot fulfill this demand. I am wanting even more money, for the printing of narrative leaflets, to be distributed in my touring. While the people are so *glad* to receive, ought we not to improve the opportunity, to put some verse or passage from God's Word into their hands, praying His good Spirit, to put them into their hearts?

Your letter reached me while I was in Samokov. The sessions of the Bible women in their yearly training-class, were exceedingly gratifying to me, as showing the spirit of harmony and loving coöperation which prevails between us, and the earnest, loving consecration of these our Bulgarian sisters to their Master and His work among their sisters in this land. This year, I was very *fortunate* in having again as my assistant in the Class, after ~~two~~ year's absence, Miss Akrabova, who was in former years my assistant, and who is greatly beloved by the class. She is to remain with me also, I hope, through the year, which will be compensation for the two years in which I have toured alone, the number of workers being too small to allow one of them to accompany me. As I read of Miss Bush and her associate living and touring together, I sometimes almost envy them the comfort they take; yet I am persuaded that for Bulgaria, it is better that a Bulgarian travel with me, and by this means we can come more closely into the family life.

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Miss Cole's visit in Samokov seemed to do her good, as it did all of us who had the pleasure of her company. She is now very happy in her home and school life in Monastir, and was impatient to be again with Miss Matthews, to complete preparations for the opening of their school. She was very much encouraged with the prospect of receiving ten new scholars, next year. It seems to me that the future of the Monastir school looks very encouraging.

While we were in Samokov, an aged Bulgarian, an uncle of Pastor Sitchanoff, and who was one of the translators of the Bible into the Bulgarian language, — came to a sad death, and was buried in the most unfeeling manner, from the Orthodox Church. Last week died in this town, an old teacher, who twenty-five or more years ago, taught Dr. & Mrs. Haskell in Philippopolis, the Bulgarian language. For more than fifty years, this teacher, Hristo Pulekoff, taught in the Bulgarian schools; ~~and taught~~ sang in their churches, contributed to the papers; and
In character, however, he had the respect of none.
was in general a public-spirited man. He cherished the memory of his acquaintance with the missionaries, Messrs. Merriam, Clarke, Haskell, & Locke, but turned from the gospel which they taught, as did the old man Sitchanoff, from the Bible truths which he had helped to bring near to his countrymen. Like translator Sitchanoff, teacher Pulekoff died a fearful death, in which there was not a ray of comfort, and of neither of these men, are any of their countrymen found to speak in praise.

With sincere regards to yourself and Mrs. Clarke, as well as all your associates at the Rooms, I am,

Sincerely yours, Ellen M. Stone

Ellen Stone Philippopolis
Aug 31 1888
Ack Oct 8

Thomson, Rev. Robert

423 - 472

Robert Thompson

New York. 17. Mar. 1881

Recd 18. Mar

Union Theological Seminary
9 University Place : N. Y. City.
17th March, 1881.

My dear Dr Clark,

I have been much pleased this morning to get your letter of yesterday's date. It will give me great happiness to forward to Miss Turner your kind note, appointing her as an assistant missionary of the Board.

Several circumstances have combined to make me feel that it is my duty to spend the summer in this country. And so far as plans can be made in advance, I purpose to sail from New

423.

York on the 17th Sept., & to leave Scotland for Constantinople towards the end of October. It would thus, it seems to me, be rather premature to include me, as you kindly proposed to do, in the farewell meeting which you are to hold on the 30th. Indeed, I feel very doubtful whether I should go to that meeting at all. I need not assure you that I should enjoy nothing better than being present, especially as Dr & Mrs Kingsbury & Miss Graves are to be fellow-workers in Bulgaria. But I am to be examined for license on the 6th April: so that, in addition to my regular duties, I have special preparations on hand.

And I see that the 30th is a Wednesday — one of the days when I have most time to devote to extra work. As I don't want to disgrace either Scotland or this Seminary or the Board, I should feel very unwilling to allow anything to break in upon my time.

If, under these circumstances, you still think it desirable that I should attend, let me know, & I shall do it. But my own feeling is that I had better not.

With sincere regards,
Yours most truly
Robert J. Thomson.

Robert Thomson
Recd May 2

Union Theological Seminary,
9 University Pl., N.Y. City,
30th April, 1881.

✓

My dear Dr Clark,

May I ask you to let me know whether you or Dr Alden have had any communication from the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Newark, N.J., relative to my ordination. I am in some doubt as to whether I was expected to take the initiative in the correspondence: and so, to prevent mistakes, I write to ask you about it.

I am to be ordained by the Presbytery of Newark, N.J., on the evening of Wednesday the 18th of May, in the church of the Rev. Dr Few Smith (called, I believe, the 2nd Presbyterian), at 7.30 o'clock. Dr Prentiss, Professor of Missions in this Seminary is to preach the sermon; and it was agreed to ask some Officer of the American Board to deliver the charge. If the Stated Clerk meant me to do any of this correspondence, his desire was that I should find out who of you Officers of the Board will be able to undertake this duty. When I let him know, he will send to that person a formal invitation in the name of the Presbytery.

My own inclinations would

lead me to hope that you will be able to come. But if it is thought best that Dr Hayden, or any one else, should do so, I shall be quite satisfied.

Please let me know the decision as early as possible. And believe me,

Yours most sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

New York, July 25, 1881.

Rec'd July 26.

9 University Place,
New York City,
25th July, 1881.

My dear Dr Clark,

It was my intention to have gone to Boston before this time, according to your desire; but a sprained ankle which laid me up for nearly three weeks, & from which I have just recovered, prevented. I was now on the point of writing to ask if you would be in Boston about the 8th of August so that I might go then; but the receipt of your letter this morning makes me very gladly change the date. I thank you for the invitation to this Farewell Meeting, which should indeed prove a most interesting occasion. I know of nothing likely to hinder my getting there in time for it: so I trust to be present. I shall leave here by the Fall River Boat on the eve. of Tues., Aug. 2nd.

My plans are to sail for Scotland on the 10th of Sept. if possible. I think it is most likely I can go then: if not, — one week later. But as I already told you, & as the European Turkey Mission knows,

I believe, through Dr B[illegible],
I do not expect to reach Constantinople before the middle of November. After a brief visit at home, ~~I'll~~ we shall then be ready & glad to proceed to work.

I am interested to know of the matters about which you write, specially as to my proposed location. I look forward with intense interest & hopefulness to the work, & trust that Pleven may be made to become to us a place of blessed memories.

Yours most sincerely
Robert Thomson.

Thomson

Dundee, Oct. 27, 1881.

Rec'd Nov. 12.

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.

any collection [illegible]
the [illegible] heard [illegible] when
on steamer leaving the Clyde was that
of the President's death. I was greatly
shocked & grieved. But it afforded me
peculiar gratification to be a witness of
the universal, spontaneous, & genuine
sympathy manifested by this country on
the occasion. America & Britain are
closer together to-day than they were two
months ago. Having the [illegible] ever since the
affliction [illegible]
the health & spirits of both of
are excellent. With sincerest regards
in which Mrs Thomson joins,
I am
Yours very truly
Robert Thomson.

F. C. Manse, Leating.
Dundee: Scotland.
27th Oct., 1881.

My dear Dr Clark,

Under cover of a communication to Mr Hagen, I enclose a line or two to let you know of our welfare. We were married on the 5th, as arranged, under the favouring smile of a bright sun, & amid the congratulations of many friends. Since then, we have made hurried trips to the east, north, & west of Scotland, seeing relatives & doing business. For the most part we had pleasant weather; & we were entirely successful in all our enterprises.

We got back here two days ago & are now in the midst of our final packings & arrangements. We leave for the south on the 31st, sail from Marseilles on the 5th November, & hope to reach Constantinople on the 12th.

— I have been pleased to find that the Bulgarians have quietly won their way to a very considerable share of the interest and appreciation of the people of Scotland. The progress in this respect is very marked since I passed through three years ago; & I think it seems likely to be still greater in the immediate future. The work of the American Board, too, was spoken of with an admiration that almost amounted to enthusiasm on the part of many whom I have seen. So that we have been greatly encouraged & cheered in starting out to the work that is already dear to our hearts. One friend, the minister of an important Free Church in the west, offered to give us the proceeds of a mission-any collection now and again.

The first news that I heard when our steamer reached the Clyde was that of the President's death. I was greatly shocked & grieved. But it afforded me peculiar gratification to be a witness of the universal, spontaneous, & genuine sympathy manifested by my country on the occasion. America & Britain are closer together to-day than they were two months ago. May the Lord over-rule this affliction for the good of the United States.

The health & spirits of both of us are excellent. With sincerest regards, in which Mrs Thomson joins,

I am,

Yours very truly,

Robert Thomson.

Bebek: Constantinople.
12th December, 1881.

My dear Dr Clark,

I am sorry that, although we reached Constantinople on the 13th November, we still find ourselves here. That portion of our outfit which we purchased in Scotland did not arrive in port till a fortnight ago to-day. And now, we await the good-pleasure of the Turkish officials who still retain them in the Custom-House, and may possibly detain them for a considerable time longer yet. Up to a week ago, we could not consider the detention very annoying, as we had quite counted on spending a little time in visiting our friends. But now, we are longing to be away, & regret every day that passes over us here. This morning my wife & I began the private study of Bulgarian — just by ourselves, taking Mr Morse's grammar. We shall continue at this so long as we remain here, in the hope that it may facilitate to some extent our after work in the interior.

It has been arranged that we are to go to Philippopolis for the study of the language. Drs Riggs & Byington felt strongly that that was the best place to go to for the purpose, yet hesitated to recommend us to do so, as they were unwilling that our first experiences should be in the midst of the unpleasantness that still prevails there. But my wife & I both thought most decidedly that no such matter should be allowed to outweigh the advantages of the place. We thought that we did not need to mix ourselves up with it, especially as our stay in Philippopolis was to be, not as members of that station, but simply as guests studying the language. And so we determined to go there. I am glad to say that the brethren here are happy over this decision, & trust that our visit may possibly be made the means of bringing the two parties together again. God grant that it may be so. Dr Riggs wrote to Messrs Marsh & Bond suggesting that they should not seek to have us take sides in, or even discuss at all, the matter about which they disagree. The reply came that, if Dr Riggs would explain matters fully to us here, they would undertake to say nothing about it to us themselves. Thus things seem to be pleasantly arranged so far; & we hope that good may result all round.

As the brethren here seemed to think that we should be called back to literary work in Constantinople after the lapse of from 14 to 18 months, they advised us not to take up house in Philippopolis. Mr & Mrs Marsh have kindly agreed to have us board with them instead: and so, with fewer household cares upon us, we should be able to devote more time than usual to the language & the people. We have been getting valuable hints as to the best methods of procedure in various ways; & now, all that we long for is to have a chance to put them into practice. We trust it may be soon.

It has been a great pleasure to us to receive so cordial a welcome from all the missionaries here, as well as from the circle of our own personal friends. We have spent some ten days with them in Scutari and Hissar, and are greatly encouraged by the warm words of friendship & christian sympathy that were ready for us on all hands. And now, with the promise of the Master's presence with us as we engage in His work, we cannot ask for a brighter start.

I trust I may soon be able to address you from Philippopolis. Mrs Thomson joins me in kind regards. With remembrances to all the Congregational-House circle, I am, dear Dr Clark,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

[illegible]

Constantinople Dec. 12. 1881

Rec'd Jan 2. 1882

Philippopolis.
Eastern Roumelia: European Turkey.
2nd January, 1882.

My dear Dr Clark,

When I wrote you three weeks ago, we had no idea how long we might be detained in Constantinople. But two days after that, all our boxes had passed the Custom-House; & by the middle of the next week we were ready for the start. The authorities retained two small books of mine: one on "Islam": the other — nothing less than "Gladstone's speeches in the Midlothian Campaign"! I think Mr Gladstone is not undeserving of the compliment.

We reached here on the evening of the 24th December, & had a warm welcome from Messrs Marsh & Bond & their families. As was arranged, we have a room in Mr Marsh's house — a very pleasant home: and now that we have all of our own things about us that we thought necessary to bring, we are exceedingly comfortable. This arrangement proves wonderfully helpful. With no household cares upon us, we are able to devote our time more wholly to the study of the language; & we hope soon to feel that we have made some solid advancement in it.

Your letter of the 6th December reached me here two days ago. My wife & I thank you heartily for the good wishes expressed. It was a special pleasure to hear of the kind remembrance of us by Dr Wm M. Taylor & members of his congregation. Such assurances prove specially helpful now.

Your letter deals particularly with the matter of my location this winter. As my last letter would explain to you, that has been settled with reference simply to the facilities to be had for studying Bulgarian. The brethren of the Philippopolis & Constantinople Stations were unanimous in regarding this as the best place in that respect, and were very thankful that we did not feel the one difficulty that stood in the way of our coming here, to be an insurmountable one. Nothing was said by any one of the special needs of Samakove; and though both Messrs Clark & Locke sent me invitations to go there, it was in such a general way that I took it to be only the outcome of the heartiness of the welcome which they extended to us.

You may remember that I told you that, so far as I knew myself, I thought I could do better work in the literary department, assisting Dr Byington, than in any other. I mentioned this in conference with the brethren; & they heartily approved that my work should eventually be in that line, if nothing hindered. As Mr Belden was originally expected to labour in that department, the prospect of some help in it was regarded with thankfulness. And the fact that Dr Byington judged it would be necessary for him to return to America within a year, made my desire to work in that line be regarded as specially timely.

These considerations, but particularly that regarding the facilities for studying Bulgarian, decided me to come here, not as a member of the Station, but as a student-guest. And I think that, for the present, this arrangement is decidedly the best.

But your letter makes me determine still to hold myself perfectly free to go wherever the demands of the work may call when I am ready to leave Philippopolis. It is true, I have had very little experience as a teacher, & am doubtful of my ability to succeed in that line. Still, I am ready to try. By latest accounts, also, it would seem that the necessity for Dr Byington's returning to America is neither so great nor so immediate as was at first feared. And so if, at a later date, it should seem more advisable that I should settle in Samakove than in Constantinople, I am perfectly willing to do so. Meanwhile, I shall make enquiries among the brethren, and shall give the matter careful + prayerful consideration.

Our teacher here at present is Mr Gootchoff. Perhaps you have seen him. He was in America for some time, + graduated from Hamilton College. We find Bros. Bond + Marsh + their families very kind + agreeable christian friends. Since our coming, a weekly English Prayer-Meeting has been established amongst ourselves. It is the only service we can at present understand; but we hope ere long to get the benefit of the Bulgarian ones also. Meanwhile, it is a great pleasure to meet with them, listen to their hearty singing, + worship with them in spirit. We were introduced to Mrs Mumford yesterday in church, but have not yet had any intercourse with her.

Mrs Thomson joins with me in kindest regards, and in every good wish for this New Year.

Yours very sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis, Jan. 2, 1882
Rec'd Jan. 24

Philippopolis.
5th April, 1882.

Dear Dr Clark,

In view of the approaching Annual Meeting of our Mission, I have been consulting to some extent with the brethren as to the needs of the field; & the word that I get from them makes it necessary that I should write to you on a matter of personal business.

I am told that you are now quite satisfied with the equipment of the Samakove Station, & that therefore I shall probably be eventually engaged in literary work, but that in the mean time I shall probably be appointed temporarily to this Station for a period of possibly two additional years. If this is for the best interests of the work, I personally should be highly satisfied with such an arrangement; for I feel that literary work would be almost useless unless I were well acquainted, not with the language only, but with the people themselves: and I realize that, for getting such acquaintance, this is probably the best place in the field.

However, what I wish now to write about is a matter that comes up only in this connection. Although we are having a very pleasant stay here in Mr Marsh's house, circumstances make it necessary that we should go to quarters of our own — probably in July next. Now, my own feeling, & that of brethren whom I have consulted, is that it would be a pity, even for the sake of a two years' stay here, to bring up all our furniture from Constantinople. It would be expensive to the Board; & it would be ruinous to the furniture on its return journey. As it is all "knock-down" furniture, & packed, without any indexing, in 15 different boxes, it would be impossible to make a selection of a few things out of all this mass of sticks.

But I remembered that in the Manual it is said that, at the end of the first year, an additional outfit sum of $150— is, if necessary, granted to new missionaries; & I thought that such a sum would probably enable us to purchase here such articles as would help us to make our new quarters sufficiently comfortable for habitation. On consulting with Mr Marsh, I find that he does not know whether the Mission here has to vote a recommendation that this additional grant seems necessary, or whether it is given directly from Boston. So he advised me to write to you at once about it; & I now do so in the hope that I may get a reply from you in time to let me make up my mind what to do as I pass through Constantinople on my return from Monastir.

You have probably heard 'ere this that the Annual Meeting is to be held at Monastir this year, beginning on the 9th of June. I am very glad that it has at last seemed possible to the brethren to meet there. It is only a pity that, as things look at present, it does not seem probable that there will be a very full meeting — not as full as ordinarily. But we hope that, before the time comes, some may see their way to go who are doubtful at present. The brethren at Monastir seem to be meeting with special encouragement just now; & the holding of a good, full, hearty meeting there, with the presence of the Lord among us, might add an impulse to their work with the most blessed results.

I cannot tell you much about ourselves, save that we are plodding onwards in the study of the language, always thoroughly enjoying it, yet with occasional fits of depression such as all suffer from more or less. My wife, though now pretty well, has not been very strong through the winter, & has had both her time & her capacity for study rather seriously encroached upon. But my own health has, I am thankful to say, continued excellent all through.

The Sabbath services here continue to be unusually well attended; & considerable interest seems to be manifested. Mr Tondjoroff's sermons have been, for some time past, specially earnest & evangelistic.

Two weeks ago, the Bonds, Marshes, & ourselves decided to invite to our own weekly English Prayer-Meeting any others who might care to attend. In this way, we have had added to our gatherings Mr & Mrs Tondjoroff & family, Mr Yootchoff, Miss Mumford, & her new assistant — Miss Knapp. Possibly others may yet join us. We have derived great enjoyment & profit from these enlarged meetings, & are being stirred up to hope & pray that this may be the beginning of a time of new & abundant blessing to this Station.

My wife joins me in sincere regards.

Yours very truly,

Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis, Apr. 5, 1882.
Rec'd May 2.

Philippopolis.
29th May, 1882.

Dear Dr Clark,

I have to thank you for your prompt reply to my enquiry about the other $.150 of my outfit, & for the nature of it. It is a great relief to Mrs Thomson & myself, & will, I feel sure, prove a saving to the Board in the end. I am not sure that I quite understand your remarks which immediately follow in that connection; but, if you have reference merely to our personal comfort in the style in which we propose to live in the house which we have taken, I can only assure you that we thoroughly recognize that comfort is essential to usefulness. And so, although we shall do with as little as possible - & that of a somewhat "odds & ends" character, we shall have all that is necessary for keeping ourselves in good working-order - so far as that is within our own control.

I am glad to have occasion to write to you to-day, because I think you will be interested to hear about our hopes for the work in this town. It has seemed to me that, for about a month past, our hearts have been specially stirred up to pray & consult about the furthering of the gospel amongst the unevangelized masses of this town. This has appeared specially at our enlarged weekly English Prayer-Meetings, about which I have already written you. And Mrs

Toundjoroff, the native preacher, so earnestly took the lead in expressing desire after greater activity & consecration in the work, that at last it seemed impossible to refrain any longer. Consultation, accordingly, was had; & he was heartily encouraged to try the two methods of reaching the people which seemed to him most desirable. These were, the distributing of tracts on Sunday mornings, accompanied with invitations to the services, and the holding of open-air meetings. And so, a week ago from yesterday, he broached the matter to the people. At the conclusion of the third of the day's services, all of which had been peculiarly impressive, he asked the people if it was not time to try to do something more to evangelize their fellow-citizens. Very earnestly he dwelt upon the necessities of the case, & then invited all who thought that the time for action was come to meet for consultation at his house that evening.

I had the pleasure of attending that gathering, & was greatly pleased, so far as I could understand what was said, with the spirit shown. Some of the friends made admirable suggestions; & these, although they fell short of what Mr Toundjoroff had in view, will probably be carried out. No one, however, went as far as was wanted; and so at last Mr Toundjoroff had himself to make his two proposals. The matter of the tract-distribution was readily approved; but it was at once apparent that the friends were taken aback by the proposal to hold open-air services. They were afraid of it. Some said it would be contrary to the laws of the Province in respect to the holding of meetings. Another asked if this would not be acting like the Pharisees, praying at street-corners, & seeking to be seen of men. Yet another plainly declared that he did not wish to have his head broken by drunken men. The strong encouragement of the missionaries, however, approving Mr Toudjoroff's proposals, seemed to make some impression. One friend told a long & interesting story - a personal experience in Turkish times, to show that, even if they were imprisoned for holding such meetings, that might give them a chance to preach to the authorities who tried them. At length, Mr Toudjoroff suggested that a beginning might be made on the following Tuesday. That was the great national festival in honour of Cyril & Methodius - the men who first preached the gospel to the Bulgarians. Exceptional doings on such a day would be less conspicuous; & while they would therefore run less risk of getting into trouble that day, they would also have the chance to reach an unusual number of people. At the close of a two hour's discussion, although no one voted against this proposal, only about two-fifths of those present (including women) supported it. But this was sufficient; & it was agreed that the seven or eight who promised help should meet on the Tuesday to mature & carry out some plan for the day.

"I was again present when these few met in the church at 3 p.m. that Tuesday; but, to my surprise and delight, I learned that the aid of quite the bulk of our regular congregation had meantime been also secured. They had preceded us to the place of rendezvous, provided with abundance of hymn-books. Thither, after a brief prayer, we followed them. The place selected was one of the ~~Marash~~ public gardens, on the banks of the Maritza. We found the gardens densely thronged. People of all classes & of many different nationalities mingled freely. Mr Tondjoroff got respectful & even friendly salutations from many who knew him, including officials & one priest. Refreshments of all sorts were sold in great abundance; & the curious native music was heard all around. This last was our chief difficulty.

~~But~~ "At length, after joining the friends who had preceded us, we fixed upon a spot quiet enough, yet not too secluded; & there we seated ourselves on rugs or on the grass. We must have numbered 40 or 50, young and old. I had the advantage of being next to Mr Tondjoroff the whole time, & of so having the best opportunity of watching all. We began by singing, in Bulgarian of course, that most touching hymn "Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand"; & immediately a considerable crowd gathered about us. Then, after Mr Tondjoroff had read in a clear loud voice all the words of the hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus," we sang it; & then he addressed the crowd. We also sang "There is no name so sweet on earth", and "Jerusalem! my happy home!", Mr Tondjoroff reading all the verses of each aloud, making addresses between the hymns, & concluding with an invitation to come & hear more at the preaching-services."

I wish it were possible to give you an idea of his most admirable addresses: I hardly knew whether to admire more his simple, evangelical, practical earnestness, or the wonderful tact that he displayed. As for the people – they fastened their eyes on him, & listened most intently. Not a smile was to be seen. No laugh, or jeer, or noise of any sort disturbed us. One of our number who had ~~got~~ been shut out told us afterwards that, as he tried to push his way in towards us, he was roughly elbowed by a big man who said to him 'Keep still: I want to hear this'. In the crowd were many people of all ranks – soldiers, well dressed citizens, rustics, & foreigners. As we came away, one or two men came forward to speak about the new kind of pleasures that we had recommended; & I got the impression that more would have done so but for the rain which just then began to fall. We never had less than 80 or 90 people about us at a time; & altogether 200 or 300 persons must have heard something.

"We all came away greatly encouraged, & praying that the Spirit might make use of this effort to the saving of souls. One of our number has since told us that the meeting made an excellent impression on all that he had met with." To-day is another great holiday, and I believe that Mr Tondjoroff is to make a similar effort to reach the people on the slopes of Bunardjik. As I have to start for Annual Meeting to-morrow morning, I cannot be present. Indeed, our regret is that, as Mr Tondjoroff also has to be delegate at our meeting from the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, these efforts will have to cease meanwhile; for no one else here can quite be trusted to do that kind of work. But we hope that it may be resumed in autumn.

It seems to me that the desire to put forth these efforts is a very hopeful sign; and I trust that, besides doing good outside, it may bring to our own people the blessing that they have long been thirsting for. We must be content to forego the respectability of our standing here, to brave the contempt of this "little capital", & to strip for hard fighting, if any good hold is to be got in this important centre. I thank God that He has put it into the hearts of the friends here to make this beginning; & I trust that it may lead to much more.

Yesterday I gave Mr Tondjoroff your message, which he gratefully acknowledged. It seems to me that your estimate of him is none too high: he is an exceedingly valuable man.

Mrs Thomson & I are in good health, & trust we are making substantial progress in the language. I have taken most of Mr Bond's routine duties but think they will not interfere much with my studies. We parted with him & his family with very great regret. Mr & Mrs Marsh are now

improving in health; but they have had a very hard time this past winter. There seemed little that we could do to help. I anticipate a pleasant time in being with Mr Marsh during the time that we are to be here.

Mrs Thomson joins me in sincere regards.

Yours very truly

Robert Thomson

Philippopolis, May 29, 1882.
Rec'd June 19

Bebek : Constantinople.
15th July, 1882.

Dear Dr Clark,

I am glad to find a few spare hours, before returning to Philippopolis, in which I can write to you; for I expect to be hard pressed for some weeks after getting back there. The three weeks since I returned here from Monastir have been very busily occupied, chiefly with making purchases & packing them in anticipation of taking up house, but also with attending the Examinations of the Home & of the Robert College. It was our hope to be in Philippopolis by this date; but that persistent obstructionist the dentist is detaining my wife so that we shall not see our home till next week.

You have doubtless already received reports of our Annual Meeting. To me it was a most enjoyable & very instructive meeting. I am thankful that my experience begins with such a one. The spirit of it was delightful all through, — business-like, kindly, and devotional. I was greatly cheered by it; & I know that others were also: and I cannot but believe that the work in that field will show that it has received a stimulus from our gathering there. The unfortunate state of feeling that existed amongst the friends may possibly prove a hindrance.

Certainly, they cannot be in a right frame of spirit when they make such claims as they have made, and then act in such a manner in the hope of forcing their way. But one would hope that they must soon see the falseness of the position they have taken up, and, in abandoning it, obtain the blessing that they seemed otherwise ready to receive. And outside of their numbers, there were many who were greatly stirred up, chiefly by Mr Tondjoroff's preaching. Three times over he had audiences of more than 200; & the people went away feeling that they too must have preaching in their churches, and must meet together for the systematic study of the Bible.

I could gladly go with you step by step through the Meeting, and tell you of the much that interested me in it; but it will be better that I should confine myself to a few special matters.

I would join with my brethren in asking a speedy settlement of that matter in which our present instructions from Boston differ so widely from the plan proposed by Dr I. G. Bliss in the Rules which he submitted for adoption.

I wish that suggestions might be given as to the best way in which the International Sunday School Lessons with Notes might be published. Dr Byington seems to think unfavourably of the plan proposed in the resolution of our Meeting; and undoubtedly there are serious objections to it. But, on the other hand, the publication of the Lessons is a crying necessity. The little experience I have had already shews that our Protestant friends are in great need of such a help for their study of the Bible. Yet the difficulty is that the small number of the Bulgarian Protestants would allow such a publication a very limited circulation, & therefore at an expensive rate; for it is probable that, owing to its peculiar nature, it would find almost no sale amongst the orthodox. The plan proposed in our resolution commended itself to me both because it would introduce into the "Zornitza" a feature that is seen in every Religious Paper in America & Britain, and because the Lessons would by this means be brought under the attention of many orthodox who would otherwise never look at them. This, it seems to me, would be exceedingly desirable — sufficiently so to compensate for a considerable reduction of the present number of subscribers to the paper. But if that is not thought best, I trust that some other satisfactory plan may be speedily adopted.

I find myself in considerable perplexity over the matter of the pay of our Native Agents. My inexperience may increase this perplexity; yet I did not find much help from anything that was said in the Meeting. If the Board had more money than it knew what to do with, it would be easy enough to let things go as they are

But, as it has not, things hardly seem satisfactory at present. I do not for a moment grudge our Native Agents good pay. I believe that the pastors and preachers should be able to live honourably + comfortably. And when I think of the comparatively high salary that I myself draw, I almost feel like keeping my lips closed. But I know that the desire of the Board is that the churches should become self-supporting as early as possible; + I believe that to be the only healthy plan. Were it otherwise, I should not feel justified in remaining a paid missionary; for I do not think that any work that I can perform would be of such value as to warrant my cramping the Native Agents by the amount of my salary. But, since the work is meant to be self-supporting, I feel that I can remain + do my best to help them to attain that condition. Yet, from this stand-point, I fear that the pay we have been giving the native workers has been at too high a figure. All acknowledge that it is improbable that the Bulgarian churches could become self-supporting within the next 25 or 30 years if their pastors were paid at the proposed rate, unless their membership should increase at an unprecedented proportion. It is true that the proposed scale of pay was drawn up by a committee composed both of missionaries and of natives, of whom some were laymen. Yet I cannot get rid of the conviction that the fact that the finances of the American Board were behind them unconsciously influenced them in their views. I doubt whether they would adhere to these figures if they were thrown at once on their own resources. And if it be replied that they put these figures as something to be aimed at, then the answer is that, if that aim cannot be reached before 25 or 30 years hence, the Board should not be taxed in the attempt to realize it for them at present. Even with the lower figures that we have just now, the Yamboul church is the only one that pays half its pastor's expenses; and, including it, the churches in our district pay only one-fifth of such expenses. If self-support is aimed at, the proportion that the Board thus pays seems too great. Besides this, two cases that I am acquainted with make me think that the pay is unnecessarily high. Pastor Argeer of Kayaludere is known to save the greater part of his salary with ease, and to spend it on the preparation of maps. And the student who preached last winter & spring at Hasskeuy got 3½ Liras per month: yet it turned out that his board was reckoned by the people themselves at only 9/14 ths of a Lira; and he saved up the rest — to pay his passage to America. This thought was confirmed by what Mr Fowle of Cesaræa told us of the systematic way in which they manage the salary-business in their field. Were we & the congregations concerned, to fix the pastor's salary (as they do in the W. T. Mission) by agreeing that he should receive 110 per cent. of what the best-paid skilled workmen in ~~their~~ his parish earns, we should come greatly down on present figures: and I cannot see that it would be unreasonable to do so. It is true that in Eastern Roumelia we are a free people, & that the salaries paid by Government compete with us. But making allowances for all that, & remembering that preachers here should be as ready for a certain amount of self-sacrifice as they are elsewhere, the proposed figures (& the present ones also) seem still too high in the mean time. I think we should either employ only a few first-rate men at a fairly high rate, and expect them & the missionaries to supply the field among them, or else employ more men at rates which the churches themselves would reasonably soon be able to reach. I prefer the latter plan. But, in any case, I fear that the present and proposed rates of pay will make self-support a thing of the remote future.

You will observe that it was agreed that I should be stationed at Philippopolis for the present. I have undertaken the work of Station Treasurer, of the Book Department, & of the Agency for the "Zornitza"; but it was understood that I could take little or no further responsibility for the work of the Station. These duties will take all the time that I can spare from the study of the language. I do hope, indeed, to do a little touring; but it will be more for te sake of becoming acquainted with the work and the people, than for anything else.

I was rather taken aback when Mr Marsh told me that our Station would have to ask urgently for a new missionary. It filled me more than I had already been filled with regret and astonishment at the removal of Mr Bond. And though Mr Marsh's arguments convinced me of the necessity of asking another man for our Station, they also made me feel that the man we need is a missionary of considerable experience, and not a new man. It is presumed that, in the course of two years, Mr Marsh will need a visit to America, and I shall be coming to Constantinople. But, in that case, it is doubtful whether any new man would be ready by that time to take up the work that Mr Marsh would be laying down. I deeply deplore Mr Bond's removal, and consider it a sad mistake; but, since it is done, I cannot but join in the urgent request that we should have another man in our Station.

Our closing Communion exercises were of a most delightful nature; and all of us, especially those who journeyed with him, felt it a peculiar privilege to have the presence of good old Dr Riggs with us. His sermon on the past & the future of our work was most admirable.

The country through which we passed was most beautiful, & splendidly cultivated, quite justifying its reputation for being the finest part of this peninsula. The villagers seemed fairly prosperous, judging by their healthy looks and their good clothing. Yet the country is not safe; and we heard much about the oppression under which the people suffer. As we went along the "road", we passed hundreds of the villagers, including women, girls, & boys, doing forced labour on it — of course without pay. I have put the word "road" in quotation-marks, because there could scarcely be a greater misnomer. The three days' experience of it wrought the ruin of one suit of clothes, and ended by making me actually "sea-sick"!

I am glad to have had the opportunity since returning of preparing for the "Zornitza" & other papers, notices of the Examinations at the Home and the Robert College. Both were interesting and gratifying; but the former filled one with special thankfulness. Surely the darkness must be rapidly passing from this land when so many young women of all its nationalities display such a desire for education, and such ability to make the best use of it. If only they profit by the religious training they have received as much as by the rest, they should be a power for untold good in Turkey.

I conclude this on the 17th. We have been once more to the dentist's to-day, & have finished with him; so we start for Philippopolis to-morrow morning.

My wife joins me in sincere regards.

Yours very truly,
Robert Thomson.

Robert Thomson
15 July 1882 Constantinople
Recd. Aug 5

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Form No. 2.

Trans-Atlantic Cablegram.

THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY
ATLANTIC OCEAN
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" "Herald" Building.
" 9 Beaver Street.
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No. Message, 25

THE COMMERCIAL CABLE CO.
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From Constantinople *To* Fernstalk

Boston.

Zornitza permitted
Thomson

No Inquiry respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper. Repetitions of doubtful words should be obtained through the Company's offices, and not by *direct* application to the sender.

433.

Philippopolis.
Eastern Roumelia.
European Turkey.
28th November, 1882.

Dear Dr Clark,

I have had it in mind for some time past to write to you, but am only now able to carry out my purpose. My wife and I have been going through the experience of surrendering our liberty into little hands, which, till very recently, have kept the reins of government wonderfully tightly held. Our firstborn, a son, came to us on the 20th September; and, though he has brought nothing but joy into our home, our joy has been the joy of service. Now, however, the reins are relaxing; and things are going very much as they used to do in the house. My wife, I am thankful to say, has been well & strong all through, and still is so; and the little boy is vigorous and healthy.

We left Constantinople the day after my last letter to you was written, and, on arriving here, set to work at once to install ourselves in this our house — the same one that the Bonds occupied. Between carpenters and the railway (which took five weeks to forward some of our boxes over the two-days' journey between Constantinople & here), we were delayed some time before fairly getting to rights. But for three months past we have been comfortably settled; & we enjoy our home exceedingly.

As soon as possible, I resumed my studies, engaging as teacher Mr J. P. Slaveikoff – an old friend of our family, & a graduate and late teacher of the Robert College. His knowledge of Bulgarian is very accurate; and I have found that, notwithstanding the many hindrances that I have had to contend against since he came to me, he has given me a great deal of help in mastering the language. I scarcely know what to report about my progress. Sometimes I feel rather encouraged, but at other times quite the reverse. However, I suppose that is the universal experience. And yet, judging from my increasing ability to transact business, to conduct family prayers, to teach my Sunday School Class, & to take part to a slight extent in meetings, in the Bulgarian tongue, though with painfully conscious weakness and imperfection, I presume I should say that I am getting along fairly well. But this at least I can say with all heartiness, – I greatly enjoy the language & the study of it, & mean to persevere till I master it. My wife's progress has, of course, been greatly retarded; but she hopes now to be able to start afresh.

I don't know whether Mr Marsh mentioned to you the death, on the 22nd Aug., of Gosp. Stoino, — one of the best of our younger married men here. He was one of the pillars amongst the friends here. His christian life was warm and cheerful; and he had a wonderful influence to inspire & enliven others. In every good work in the church he was modestly foremost. He was quite poetical, & had written several hymns that are much appreciated. His fearless devotion to principle was very marked; & it was this that made him the backbone of that large number of ~~friends~~ brethren here who rallied around him as a friend & leader. One of them, after his death, related as typical of his character that, when several of them were dis-cussing what they should do if their employer insisted on their working on Sundays, Gosp. Stoino's final words were "Well, we shall not work on the Sabbath, if we should die for it." — He was carried off by a rapid consumption. It is hard to understand why the Lord of the harvest should take one of the best labourers away from this field, where their numbers are so few & weak; but the work is His, & He knows best.

You will remember that I wrote to you in May last about the inauguration of open-air services here. I regret to say that the attempt to continue these has proved mainly a failure. That is to say, it will not be possible in the meanwhile to hold them on such a scale as that of the first. I am sorry to have to explain that the reason for this is not found in any opposition either by government or by the people, but in opposition by our "friends" themselves. Some of them are timid; others are ashamed; and some show so little appreciation of the spirit of the gospel as to charge the leaders in this movement with fanaticism. Mr Tondjoroff therefore finds that he can count upon only a few of his people for help either direct or indirect, & that any attempt to enlist the rest in this work would only produce divisions & ill-feeling amongst our little number. And so, the most he can do is to continue the quieter & less wholesale methods of trying to reach the masses which he and others have for long kept up. We all of us — native brethren & missionaries alike — feel a deep & abiding sorrow that, in this important centre of influence, the truth which has been, so long & faithfully preached should be making so slight a mark. But the history of this mission confirms the truths that "not many wise,

X Robert Thomson

not many mighty, not many noble are called"; but "God hath chosen the poor of this world rich in faith". It is in the villages, & amongst the humbler people, that the work is taking best hold & progressing.

I had the pleasure of making my first tour lately – if I can call that a tour which lasted only five days, was done wholly by railway, & was made in the company of friends who could help me out whenever my Bulgarian failed me. Yamboul It was to Yamboul that I went. My main business was to look after the work of the colporteur there; but I chose my time so as to be there when the new Y church, which our friends have just erected, was dedicated. Mr Boyadjieff the pastor was there; and Mr Tondjoroff from here, & Pastor Argeer from Kayaluderé, were present to assist. We had Preparatory Lecture on the Saturday evening, the dedicatory service on the Sunday forenoon, baptisms & the communion in the afternoon, a religious & practical conference in the evening in a private house, and a business meeting on the Monday. All three pastors had a share in the dedication-service, Mr Boyadjieff making historical remarks, & Mr Tondjoroff preaching the sermon. Inclement weather, & the fact that two "fashionable" weddings were celebrated on the Sunday forenoon, prevented the new building from being filled, as it was hoped it would be. But even so, 160 people were present; which was a larger audience by 40 than had ever been gathered in Yamboul before. All felt on the whole quietly satisfied; & many were the prayers offered that this new building might be the birthplace spiritually of many souls.

The new church, though very plain, is dignified-looking & handsome, airy & spacious, finely situated, with a good deal of ground about it, & set well back from the noise of the streets. A division provided with sliding windows & a door cuts off about one-third of the area of the floor, giving the larger area to the church audience-room, & the smaller area to the Sabbath & week-day schools, &c. But, in case of a very large congregation, the whole can be made practically one. The bell, purchased ~~from~~ in America, is well hung in a little belfry; & I was interested in examining its rope, as I learned that it was bought with the weekly offerings of five paras made by the scholars of the infant-class in the Sunday-School here, which was for long under Mrs Bond's care, & has recently passed into my hands. Unfortunately, the Yamboul friends are burdened with a debt of about $750 on the new church. Of this sum, they were prepared to carry $500; but the $250 was most unexpectedly thrown upon them at the very last moment. One of their own number had promised to pay somewhat more than that sum for the old church-building;

but he failed them, with no prospect of being able to keep his promise within eight months' time. In this way, the friends had no money wherewith to pay the carpenters whom they were dismissing, & who were clamouring for their pay. They are in great distress. All of them have already done nobly in giving, so much so that, as one of them said, "they are wearied with giving". We had already given them the last of the money left in our hands of the donations from the Turkish Missions Aid Society. Funds belonging to the Board we have none; & your recent note on the financial question precludes hope from that source next year. Privately we have been straining every nerve to help them; but our aid is utterly insufficient. Loans are very hard to obtain, and interest at from 18 to 20 per cent has to be paid on them. What the poor people are to do, we know not. Is there no one in America who will relieve them of this burden?

While I was there, two of the friends, including our colporteur, were imprisoned for a short time for having absented themselves from Militia drill on Sundays! Before we left, I was interested to hear that one of the brethren was about to prepare a petition on this subject, to be presented to the National Assembly; & he said that he was confident that, to this request for exemption from Sunday drill, he would be able to obtain the signatures not only of all the Protestants, but also of at least 200 Pravoslavs. He was encouraged to make the endeavour; and if it is carried out, we shall watch both with curiosity and anxiety the course that the Assembly will take in regard to it. Thus far, the only safety that our Protestant friends have found in regard to this matter, is in keeping as quiet as possible, trusting rather to the influence of private individuals to have their fines or terms of imprisonment lessened. I confess it was with shame that I remembered that Mr Boyadjieff had said to me at my own table here, when conversing on this subject a short time previously, that but for the attitude of the British Consul in this town, the Protestants might long 'ere now have easily secured from the government regular exemption from this Sunday drill.

I am glad to be able to report that the sales of Scriptures & Mission Publications are likely to be unusually large these last six months of this year. I do not think that this increase will be long maintained, as it is mainly due to a special agency that is at work supplying this city with books; but, if it does that work thoroughly in the course of next year, it will have done something for which we may well be thankful. The Scriptures are finding their way more largely than ever into the schools; and the teachers are almost universally favourable to the work of our colporteurs. Indeed our men say that not more than one person out of a hundred of all classes is unfriendly to them. They find their books & their words cordially welcomed; & the one thing they lack is any sign of these teachings being put into practice in dependence upon God's help, & with a true realization of their spiritual import.

I regret to see Mr Marsh looking so worn out. Mrs Marsh is still feeble & more or less poorly; & he has had many anxieties & much work added to the many mission cares which still fall chiefly to him to look after. I trust it will not be long before both of them get a good rest & recruiting: it seems to me they are greatly in need of it.

My wife joins me in kindest regards.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis, Nov. 28, 1882.
Rec'd Dec. 21.

1 to p.

Wr'l.

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[illegible]

were largely [illegible]

teachers [illegible]

work of [illegible]

[illegible]

will not be [illegible]

[illegible]

the sales of Scriptures & Mission [illegible] increased [illegible] six months of this year. I do not expect that this increase will be permanent, as it is mainly due to a special [illegible] who is at work supplying this city with books; but, if it does that work thoroughly in the course of next year, it will

Philippopolis.
14th May, 1883.

My dear Dr Clark,

I have been very sorry to learn of your poor health, & especially to know that it now prevents you from doing as much as you originally intended to overtake in this journey. It is a disappointment to us personally & as members of this Mission that you are unable to come here also; but we shall not think of that if you are able to reach home again feeling that you have not been overworked. I sincerely trust that the Constantinople Meeting may not try you too much; and you may be sure that we shall join with the many others throughout these lands who will be praying that this Meeting may at least largely help to bring about those results which are felt to be so essential to the permanent success of the work in Asia Minor.

I lately received your brief note from Boston, written shortly before you left home. The main matter that you referred to was the desirability of having a church organized in this town. I need not enter now into an explanation of the long delay. It is not, to my mind, very surprising. And even as lately as a month or two ago, Mr Marsh & I felt that we could not urge the matter very strongly on the people. But quite recently the people themselves were stirred up to take action in the matter. I think this was the outcome of the increased spiritual interest that was awakened when we had the season of special prayer somewhat over a month ago. At any rate, the friends here have put this matter through very energetically; and yesterday the desire of their hearts was consummated.

I had the privilege of being one of the Council which, on Friday & Saturday, examined both the pastor (Mr Tondjoroff) & those who came forward as candidates for membership. I wish it were possible to give you the details of some of the most interesting cases that came before us. It was exceedingly impressive work, and many times very touching. I do think that, so far as man can judge, the brethren & sisters who have banded together to found this church are on the whole as choice monuments of the Lord's grace as could be desired anywhere. I think that we have all felt that the Spirit of the Lord has been present in our midst, & that there is good hope for the future. Aside from the pastor, there were admitted yesterday only 10 women & 12 men; but we have every expectation that that number will very soon be doubled. Mr Tondjoroff tells me that this morning they had a very joyful prayer & business meeting; & that the proposal was then made to raise half the pastor's salary. I don't yet know what success they will have; but the sums which he quoted as given by one or two individuals show that the spirit of self-sacrifice is not wanting.

Early last week I returned from Kezanluk, where I had gone as delegate from our Mission to attend the Annual Meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. It was a good meeting. The tone of it was warm & earnest & business-like throughout. I think that the onlookers were favourably impressed with the good-sense, the patriotism, & the kindly feelings that were displayed, & with the utter absence of pomp or show. The worship seemed in the first instance more a matter of curiosity than anything else; but it doubtless left its impressions also. Many young men, especially from the gymnasia were present, in spite of warnings on the part of the priests. This finally led to two of their teachers attending the Sunday Meetings, & opening a public discussion. In this they were humiliatingly worsted, so that at one time they lost their temper, & used bad language, & a "row" was threatened. But that soon passed; & the discussion was continued for a long time, first in public, & then in private. We have no reason to regret this incident. And we missionaries were more than ever convinced that our Bulgarian brethren are abundantly able to take upon themselves all the work of this field, except in the one matter of finance.

I am glad to be able to report also that we have hopes that the schism on the question of baptism amongst our friends in Kezanluk has been as largely healed as is possible where close-communion Baptist views are entertained. It was a pleasure to me also to find in one of the latest additions to the little flock there an old friend, in the person of a graduate of Robert College of some time back. He is of one of the best & wealthiest families in the town; & his "turning Protestant" had caused quite a sensation, & had given great offence to his friends. But he stands firm — saying little, yet steadfast. What a grand thing it would be if the many other

Robert College graduates in Bulgaria and this province, most of whom are in positions of influence, should take a similar stand!

I must not omit to mention that one of those whom we received into membership yesterday was S. P. Vatralski, the student who is at present working in Hasskeuy. Mr Locke says that he has the finest mind of any student that has ever been in the Theological Seminary. Mr Marsh & I have had more than once special occasion to admire his character & bearing; & we felt very thankful that he saw his way to take this step.

Mr Marsh is to speak to you about the work here, & the desirability of having our estimates restored at least in part. I need say nothing more on this point than just that I fully share Mr Marsh's feeling that the work here will be sadly crippled if the reduction in the estimates is insisted on. So I join most heartily with him in asking the restoration of somewhat more than the half of the amount by which they were reduced.

You may remember that, when we came here first, we were told that our stay here was likely to be brief, & so we were advised not to bring up the bulk of our furniture. It now appears, however, that there is every likelihood of our remaining in Philippopolis for some years more. Our comfort does not require that we should bring up anything from Constantinople; but we fear to run the risk of leaving books, carpets, & other perishable matters, any longer in the Bible-House cellar. The boxes have already lain there through two winters; and we think that to leave them any longer would be to lose them entirely. We have consulted with Mr Marsh, with the Constantinople Station, and with Mr Peet; & they all concur in saying that the boxes should be sent on before another winter. I am sorry that this should be necessary; but I see no way out of it.

Mrs Thomson joins me in cordial regards. Please remember me to Miss Clark.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

Robert Thomson
Philippopolis-
May 14, 1884

Samokove: Bulgaria.
27th July, 1883.

My dear Mr Ward,

I write on behalf of the Philippopolis Station to ask that you will sanction two items of slight extra expense which we propose to incur under the following circumstances.

The expenses for this year include salary to Mr Marsh to the 31st Dec.; & the estimates for next year include a similar salary to Mr Clarke, whom we then believed to be ready to come out & supply Mr Marsh's place in the event of his making a visit to America. At our recent Annual Meeting held here, Mr Marsh's visit was sanctioned; but since then we have learned that the doctors refuse to allow Mr & Mrs Clarke to return to this country for at least a year. As it was necessary that I should have some help in my field, we have held further meetings to consider the question; & it has been finally determined that Mr Locke should render the needed aid. Instead, however, of giving up his house here, & removing his family to Philippopolis, only to return again shortly, Mr

Locke feels that his best plan is to maintain his residence here, and simply to come down to my field as frequently as may be necessary to tour & to preach. This plan, though not all that could be desired, has been approved by these two Stations as the best under the circumstances.

When Mr Locke comes down to Philippopolis, we could easily be able to give him a room for the few days at a time that he would be there. But we could not supply Miss Stone and her companion with the more permanent quarters that they would need since Miss Stone has become a member of the Philippopolis Station.

W.B.

For this reason, & for the sake of Mr Marsh's furniture, which would otherwise have to be packed & stored, we have agreed upon the following, subject to your approval. To rent Mr Marsh's present house at the expense of the Board during the time of Mr Marsh's absence in America. The rent is at the rate of (30) Thirty Liras a year; but, as Miss Stone would pay rent for her room, as the Marshes would pay storage for their furniture, & as rent would also be paid by the Bulgarian family whom it is proposed to have in the low part of the house, the cost

to the Board would be considerably reduced — probably by more than half. Mr Locke could room
£T. 15 either with us or in this rented house according as might be more convenient at the time. — This, then, is the first item of extra expense which we desire to have sanctioned.

The second item is in connection with Mr Locke's touring, which, as made from Samakove instead of from Philippopolis, would be somewhat more costly. Our estimates for touring are not calculated to stand this extra costliness; and it would be very detrimental to the work to diminish the amount of touring so as to keep
tra touring £T. 15 within these limits. We propose to charge as a special extra the extra cost of these tours made by Mr Locke.

I hardly think that these two items together are likely to exceed (30) Thirty Liras a year. If you think best, they can be limited to that sum.

We are agreed in recommending that these two items be granted, as they are essential to the proper working of the Philippopolis field in Mr Marsh's absence according to the plan adopted, which, as I have already said, appears to be the best plan under the circumstances.

Please let me have a reply as early as convenient, and address me as usual at

Philippopolis,
Eastern Roumelia.

I trust you are comfortably settled in your new home, & find it pleasant.

Please give my kindest regards to Mrs Ward. I trust that she & the children are well, as are my wife & little boy.

Believe me,
Yours very truly,
Robert Thomson.

P.S. Mr Locke, after reading the above, thinks that it would be best not to limit the sum asked for to Thirty Liras, since we have very uncertain data for estimates. He also thinks I should explain that, since our Annual Meeting arranged no alternate plan should Mr Clarke fail to come to Philippopolis, we of the Samakove & Philippopolis Stations were obliged to assume the responsibility of settling the matter, since we are the parties concerned, & since there is no time to resort to a Circular Vote.

R. T.

Rev Robert Thomson
Aug. 18. 83

Dr. Alden
Ac. 30 £ T.
&c.

Philippopolis: Eastern Roumelia.
17th September, 1883.

My dear Dr Clark,

I see that you must be back to Boston by this time. I trust that your rest in Switzerland has done you great good, & that you will be able to pass through this busy season at Annual Meeting-time without feeling evil effects. It was a disappointment to us all not to have you present with us at our Meeting at Samokov; yet, I assure you, I think you were the chief loser. It would have done your heart good to be present at that Conference which we had with our Native Brethren, & which so largely took the place of our own regular Annual Meeting. The Minutes of the Conference & of our own meeting, & the letters which I know some of the brethren have written concerning it, must already have given you a full description of it, which I cannot doubt must have made a most favorable impression upon you. Still, though I am so late in referring to it, I cannot refrain from adding my word of commendation of the step that we then took, & of expressing my satisfaction with the results, as well as very deep thankfulness for them.

I expect shortly to resume my studies; and as they, together with the extra correspondence &c. that devolves upon me in Mr Marsh's absence, will keep me very busy, I wish while I can do it easily to send you a few notes about the work in this field.

While there are troubles & discouragements here & there, it does seem to me that the encouraging signs both outnumber & outweigh them. My feelings, as I write to you, are decidedly those of gladness & hopefulness; & that is the impression that I wish to convey to you.

I must begin by telling you the story of Cricore. His name will indicate that he is not a Bulgarian; but Armenian as he is, & knowing Bulgarian very imperfectly, he was warmly received amongst us all as a true brother. It seems that when he was a small child, our place of worship here used to be in the heart of the Armenian quarter; and Cricore, attracted by the singing, while he was playing about the streets, used to come in quite frequently. This became a habit with him, so that, at length, when he was so grown that his parents felt it would not do for him to attend the Protestant place of worship any longer, he had become so attached to it that he would not desist going. His parents beat him, shut him up on Sundays, tried to allure him away, &c., & the neighbours systematically persecuted him; but to no purpose. Cricore would not have anything to do with any religious service but ours. He is now, I believe, about 23 years of age." The crisis in his life appears to have occurred two years ago. Shortly previous to that, when he began to feel that his prospects for life were being injured by his going with the Protestants, he wavered a good deal, & was beset by great temptations. But he received grace to make the right decision, & came out clearly & strongly on the Lord's side. From that time onwards, his employer, who was also an Armenian, began to treat him more & more harshly, till at last, about seven months ago, he told him that he must either quit the Protestants or leave his service. Without any hesitation Cricore left his good position. For about a couple of months he found employment & slight remuneration by hawking books about the town in behalf of two booksellers here, one of whom is one of our regular adherents tho' not yet a church-member. At the end of that time, Cricore came to me, saying that he was anxious to go to one of our Armenian Colleges in Asia Minor, there to fit himself to become a preacher to his own people, + asking me to do what I could to help him. That matter was in due time satisfactorily arranged; + meanwhile I was providentially enabled to give him a four + months' engagement as colporteur for this district., as we were anxious to send the regular worker (a tried + most successful colporteur) on a trial trip into south-eastern Macedonia. He did well, during these four months, showing great zeal, + exhibiting a greater desire than I have found in any of the other men to press the Scriptures upon the notice of purchasers, rather than any of our other publications. Considering his being a foreigner, young + inexperienced, + having certain faults, such as impetuousness + rashness — which lie very largely on the surface, I think that he has shown himself a very excellent worker. When our church was organized here, he presented himself as a candidate for membership. We knew that he had embraced Baptist views, + were prepared to receive him as we did two others who were of the same persuasion. But he took such extraordinarily extreme ground that we felt we must put him off for a time. Since then he has modified his views; + my conviction is that it was simply his impetuous inconsiderateness that led him to take such grounds,

& that a little patient instruction will clear up his mind very largely if not entirely on this point. But of his sincere & earnest piety we felt no doubt. He regularly attended the services, & was often at the prayer-meetings, & taking part in Turkish or Armenian, when many of the Bulgarians were absent or silent. I should mention that towards the end of his service in colportage, he narrowly escaped with his life at the hands of a drunken Bulgarian priest & some roughs whom he (the priest) stirred up. As it was, the priest stole a large number of his books. Cricore is now at Marsovan; though, unfortunately, he is backward in his studies, & has had to enter the preparatory class. Unfortunately, also, through the sickness of his brother, & through a lack of proper manly independence, he has allowed himself to reach Marsovan without funds, so that he will have to be supported by friends. Still, he has made a beginning. — I have shewn you the faults in his character, & have mentioned the unpleasing features of the case; but I believe, that, taken all in all, it is a case ~~that~~ we may be very thankful for. I look to Cricore, in God's providence, to make a beginning of the work amongst the Armenians in this Province."

At the last Communion which was held

here, just the day before the Marshes started for America, Pastor Tondjoroff had the pleasure of receiving four new members into church-fellowship. And when I was at Bazardjik yesterday conducting the services, I was told that from four to six more there were ready to present themselves for examination. — From Kazanluk, I have word from Mr Petranoff, who is naturally inclined to be rather "blue", that things are well with them there, & that they recently had five new outsiders — women — as pleased listeners at their Sunday evening praise-meeting. — The worker in Iserovo reports occasional new hearers, & adds that the friends in that place have begun systematic contribution, & in a very fair degree, to his support. — From Omarchovo, where we have no worker, one young man who has suffered much on account of his faith, & who is possessed of some small means, has determined to go to the Samokov School to become a preacher. — Mr Kostoff from Panagurishte writes encouragingly, & in particular gives the details of one case, which I must translate for you from his letter. He says:— "There is a woman here who, for a considerable time, has been searching the Scriptures, & ~~who~~ three weeks ago came to the decision to live for Christ. But she is suffering very severe persecution from ~~her~~ household (i.e., from her husband, her mother, her relatives, & from the quarter in which she resides). The day before yesterday (Sunday, 2nd Sept.), she was beaten severely by her husband & her mother, & they took from her her clothing [outer] and ~~her~~ shoes, & drove her out. Last night she had a still worse experience at the hands of her mother & certain women and men. Her mother stripped her to her chemise & petticoat, put her on the ground, and then ~~along~~ with other women beat her severely, trying if possible to terrify her. Her husband drove her out, & will not have her in the house, since she will not leave the path which she has decided to follow. Besides this, he threatens to go to the bishop in Philippopolis & have her divorced, since she has become a Protestant. But thus far she has been steadfast, & has answered – 'Let them do what they will: I wish to live for Christ.' She can read the Bible very well, & understands nearly all that she reads, especially those verses that explain the way of salvation. Pray for her that God may give her grace to stand firm for Christ. Through her persecution & people here have been greatly stirred up to inquiry."

While one cannot but deplore such a persecution, & have the deepest sympathy with the poor woman, one still has a feeling of thankfulness that we are permitted to see what grace can yet do. A few cases like that over the field would be worth years & years of labour."

Hasskeuy, I am sorry to say, is at present threatened with three difficulties – two of them very serious; but until I see how they turn out, I need not refer to them in detail.

One has his occasional disappointments, and, I suppose, feels them more when new to them, as I am, than when one has had longer experience. When I returned from Samokov in August, I found a couple of promising-looking young men who were seeking Mr Marsh (then absent from home). They said they had come all the way from Velitz to enter our school, which they thought was here. They knew very little of our faith; but, understanding that like Luther we disapproved of pictures & saints &c., they agreed with us, & wanted to learn more. I gave them copies of the New Testament & of "Christie's Old Organ", besides helping them to get some food & medicine & accommodation at the Khan; but before Mr Marsh got back, they disappeared without a word of explanation or of thanks. I was told that an uncle, who had previously refused ~~refused~~ to support them at school, had urged his help upon them so soon as he understood that they were seriously thinking of coming to us. But whether this or something else was at the bottom of their turning back, I cannot say. — Well, they have the Testaments & the other book; & the Lord may make use of these still to enlighten their souls, if it be His will.

Miss Stone has been here for some time, & has been setting things agoing in her department; but doubtless she will report for herself. We are very thankful for the impulse that the work of the Bible Women is receiving at her hands. She starts to-morrow morning for Constantinople to conduct thither Miss Spooner en route for Monastir, & to bring back Miss Cole en route for Samokov.

We are very thankful for the official notice that there have been restored to this year's estimates the funds that we asked for. It seems too bad to have asked for still a little more, as Mr Locke & I did recently through Mr Ward; but our circumstances in Mr Marsh's absence seemed to render it necessary. We await the reply with interest.

Our little boy has recently been twice rather sick, especially the second time; but he now seems perfectly well again. I regret to say that his second illness prevented my going as appointed delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Methodist Mission north of the Balkans; and as Mr Locke, my alternate, was also unable to go, we were unrepresented there. To me personally it was a great disappointment; and in the peculiar circumstances in which that Mission is at present, it seemed specially desirable that some of us should have been at their Meeting.

In accordance with the more recent advice of the brethren, I have brought up from Constantinople the furniture which has been stored there all this time, & hope soon to get it distributed through the house. We feel now as though we had fairly anchored here — so far, at least, as men and especially missionaries may anchor in this world.

Mr Tondjoroff has just called, & I must quote for you in closing something which he said which fully explains the attitude of the people at large towards our work — an attitude which displays interest, considerable approval, some little friendliness, and yet a holding back. He said — "The consciences of the people are with us, but not their hearts."

Yours most sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis, Sep. 17, 1883,
Rec'd Oct. 8.

Philippopolis.
1st October, 1883.

My dear Dr Clark,

I have safely received your note. I notice that it was sent to me as Mission Secretary; and, in case you should not already have observed it for yourself, I write to tell you that Dr Kingsbury, & not I, is Mission Secretary. I was so appointed on the opening day of our Annual Meeting, but, in view of the amount of work that would devolve upon me as being single-handed in this Station, I requested that another should be given the duties of Mission Secretary; and Dr Kingsbury was appointed before the Meeting closed.

I am very thankful that the Prudential Committee has acceded to our request for a little more money to carry on the work of this Station in Mr Marsh's absence. But from the form in which your intimation of the vote reaches me, it seems to me that, to avoid all mistake, I had better point out again what was the exact nature of our request. We asked for a grant *at the rate of* TL.30 per annum *for the period of Mr Marsh's absence*; because, as you will remember, our request was made necessary only through my being left alone here. If this is the understanding of the Prudential Committee in granting this vote, then it amounts to giving us (say) 10 Liras for the balance of 1883, 30 Liras for 1884, & permission to insert (say) 12 Liras in the estimates for 1885 according to the time when Mr Marsh may be expected back. This is what we need; and I trust that if I draw accordingly, & so present matters in the Station Accounts, the Treasurers in Constantinople & Boston will approve.

I trust you resume your duties in the Congregational House with renewed vigour. Miss Cole has been with us since last Wednesday; but this evening she leaves with Miss Stone for Samokov. My wife joins me in kind regards.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely

Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis. Oct. 1, 1883.
Recd Oct. 22.

Philippopolis.
15th December, 1883.

My dear Dr Clarke,

I have just sent off my Semi-Annual Accounts to Constantinople; & I have found to my surprise & (to some extent) gratification, that we have not needed to draw upon the $83\frac{20}{100}$ Liras which was refunded us lately for the "Native Agency" appropriation for the current year. I expected that we should have had to use part of it; but we have not quite used up all even of the original appropriation. I am happy to say that this is to a large extent due to the fact that the donations from the people here are increasing. Our new church in this city has paid three months of Mr Tondjoroff's salary for the present year, & may possibly pay more. Kazanluk has also made a beginning towards paying the preacher's salary. And elsewhere the giving is fairly good. But we have also been as economical as possible. I think that after the outstanding church-debts are paid off, the aid-to-salary contributions will be doubled.

Experience is a thing that is sometimes shaken into one after a very rough fashion; & I have lately had a lesson which has gone down very hard indeed.

You may remember that in my last letter I told you, amongst other things, the story of Cricore. He was the last person I should have dreamed of as disappointing me: yet he has collapsed almost disgracefully. His devotion to principle & his earnestness were so marked, his faith seemed so simple, & his behaviour while acting as bookseller for me was so thoroughly that of an evangelist, that I was perfectly staggered when he came suddenly back from Marsovan, after having been there only a week or two, & having behaved in a very singular fashion. As far as I can make out, home-sickness, anxiety about funds (of which he was very short), & unchristian doubt seem to have been at the bottom of his behaviour. But the unfortunate thing is that since his return, being I suppose ashamed of himself, he has shunned not me only, but also all his old evangelical friends, as well as the church & its services. I have sought in vain for a chance to have a full & free talk with him. I simply know that he is back working for the master who originally cast him off on account of his Protestantism, — which, I fear, is a bad sign. Mr Toudjoroff & other members of the church here are as confounded as I am; for, while we all agreed in considering him immature & rash, we were equally agreed in having no doubt about his sincere love to the Saviour, & desire to win souls. I mean yet to try to reclaim him; but I fear it will be a doubtful attempt. Such a case discourages one dreadfully, & makes one fear to trust anybody.

Last winter, Mr Marsh proposed that we should occasionally gather our Native Helpers together, & have with them Conferences concerning spiritual & practical matters. He made a beginning; and, hastily as the Conference was got together, without the slightest preparation for it on the part of those who met, it turned out a very interesting & helpful series of meetings. This year, we are carrying the plan through more systematically. Taking Yambol & this town as the two centres, I proposed to have two gatherings — one, of our workers in the east, in Yambol in the fall; & another, of our workers in the west, here in the spring. A couple of weeks ago, the first of these Conferences met, as above indicated, in Yambol, & proved an exceedingly delightful meeting. Mr & Mrs Locke, Miss Stone, & myself were present, as well as Miss Dodd of the "Home", who was then Pastor Boyadjieff's guest. Of the native friends, there were present two pastors, two preachers, one colporteur, two Bible-women, & one (female) school-teacher: so that we were thirteen in all. I had had the programme of topics & speakers prepared & distributed three weeks before we met: so that we all came prepared. We discussed five topics — "The Preacher & the Pulpit", "The Pulpit & the Children", "The Pastor & the Tithe", "Bible-women & their work", and

"The Villages & their needs". All the discussions were thoroughly practical; & deep impression was made in connection with various points. The matter of tithe-giving was handled in a way I did not expect; & if the spirit of that meeting could be carried out amongst all the followers here, we could soon extend our work without asking increased aid from America. I endeavoured specially to shape the discussion of the last topic so as to bring into view the necessity for the strong churches first becoming self-supporting, & then becoming missionary centres from which the villages may be reached. The argument was — We can't increase our working force: we can't send preachers into all the villages: you acknowledge that in the villages is to be found the best material for working upon: you yourselves must go to them. Plans for itinerant evangelists, visiting committees, & even home-missionaries were discussed; but it was felt that, in the present financial circumstances, the most feasible plan was for central congregations to understand that they must give up their preacher for at least one Sunday in the month, that he may visit the villages; & that, as soon as possible, they must assume the expense of his tours.

Remember the Philippopolis church specially in prayer. Dissensions are high & bitter: sin is in the camp; & spiritual blessing is withheld. It is trying to be in the midst of all this, especially when one's endeavours at peace-making are fruitless.

Believe me, Yours very sincerely

Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis, Dec. 15, 1883.
Rec'd Jan. 2, 1884,

Monastir: Macedonia.
25th April, 1884.

My dear Dr Clark,

Although I know that the official "Letter to the Rooms" has pressed upon your attention all the points of special importance to which our attention has been turned during this Annual Meeting, I cannot forbear from adding a few more words on a subject that weighs heavily upon my heart, as upon the heart of each one of us. It is the unpleasant yet most necessary subject of "funds".

If you could have seen our faces in the earlier part of this day as we sat in committee of the whole around the estimates, silent & sad, not knowing where to begin in order to cut down our figures to the limits within which our representatives bound us at the Conference at Constantinople last year, you would have understood in a way to which my words cannot help you how hard are our circumstances. And I think I may add that one element of the hardness less easily borne than any other is this, that we may get all that we need for our own wants, yet are precluded from getting anything more for the wants of the field.

I do think that sufficient weight has not been given to the fact that this is the youngest of the four Turkish Missions, & that therefore we are just in our growing period. To shackle us as the other three missions have been shackled is the same as to impose upon a boy of fifteen the restraints of adult life. In fairness, we must have room & help to grow & expand before we can be expected to be able to stand alone in the same degree that the Western Turkey Mission does. Compare the number of our Churches, Pastors, Communicants, &c., with those of the other missions, & see whether the figures alone do not show that we are yet at a stage of progress much nearer the initial than are the other missions. It seems to me that this fact by itself ought to be sufficient warrant for justifying our being released from the pledge taken last year (binding us to limit our estimates within a certain fixed sum), & our being granted the former privilege of gradually & wisely increasing our estimates from year to year for some time to come yet. Our work is at the spreading time, without having reached more than the initial stages of the self-supporting time. Such a time must come in the history of each mission. The other three Turkish Missions passed it before they were called upon to restrict their estimates. To ask us to do the same is to throttle us. Please take this into renewed & full consideration.

I beg also your special attention & that of Dr Alden (who, I am told, is particularly in favour of the scheme of Contingent Estimates) to our resolution in regard to these Contingent Appropriations. I know I speak the mind of the mission when I say that, as presently administered, our soul loathes them, and that we had rather be told definitely before the financial year begins that we might have 500 additional Liras, than wait until the financial year is three-quarters through, & then be told that we might have 600 additional Liras.

I am told that Mr Fowle of Cesarea, & possibly some others, have represented us as giving extravagant salaries to our helpers. The simple answer to this is just that our brethren in Asia Minor have not to deal with people under a free government, through whose territory a European Rail Road passes, & whose government gives salaries which powerfully compete with us in bidding for educated men. In our different circumstances we are every whit as economical as those in Asia Minor are.

As my aim in writing this letter has been simply to unburden my heart in regard to this matter, I shall not go into further details about the meeting. It has been an exceedingly pleasant & refreshing one every way; and, with the exception of the financial condition of the Mission, the business brought before us has been very satisfactorily disposed of.

It has been a peculiar pleasure to me to have intercourse again with dear Bro. Bond & his family, from whose beautiful home I write this.

With sincerest regards,
Yours very truly
Robert Thomson.

Monastir, Apr. 25, 1884,
Rec'd June 9.

Philippopolis,
Eastern Roumelia.
28th May, 1884.

My dear Dr Clark,

There are one or two matters of interest and importance which I wish to communicate to you from this part of the field.

The one which is, perhaps, of chief interest to ourselves, & of chief importance to the prosperity of the work, I must pass over in a few lines. I have not told you — not, at least, in detail — of the misunderstandings, quarrels, and divisions which have for so many months past been a burden upon our hearts in this town, and a fatal hindrance to the work of this church. I need not, therefore, go into the details of the healing of these sores. The grand and blessed thing is that they are healed. A Council was summoned specially to deal with these matters — not to attempt to judge regarding them, but simply to try to bring about peace and re-union. This Council met in the end of April; and, by God's blessing, its endeavours were completely successful. So far as concerns the troubles between the members, native-adherents, & pastor of the church, they have all been removed. As is to be expected, things are still just a little stiff; but with tact and christian forbearance, all should go well now. It is a great joy to see the old friends back again in their places. Both pastor and people have learned valuable lessons; and I think that this dearly-bought experience will prove a strength & blessing to them both in the future.

The week before last, we held the second of our semi-annual Conferences with our helpers for this year (going by the school-year, from Sept. to Sept.). The first of them was held in November last in Yambol, when we gathered the eastern half of the helpers. This was held here; and the western half was gathered. I think I have already told you that the idea of holding these Conferences originated with Mr Marsh. Though they were set a-going only a year ago, they have already won a warm place in the hearts of all of us; and I think they will do much good.

At our Meeting two weeks ago, there were present, one pastor, three preachers, one colporteur, one Bible woman, Miss Stone, Mr Locke, & myself. As the programme had been in the hands of all for fully a month, they came well-prepared. In drawing up the programme, I got the native brethren to suggest one half of the topics, while we suggested the rest. You will get some idea of the nature of the Meeting from the following list of topics discussed. (1). The Training & Religious Convictions of Preachers. (2). Examinations for Church Membership. (3). The Relation of Preaching to the Formation of Character. (4). The Spiritual Condition of Women in the Towns and Villages. (5). The Benefits of a Preacher's remaining continuously in One Place. (6). Various brief topics, such as, The Envelope System of Giving, One Man's attempting two kinds of Work, Preaching & Trading, &c. We were together for three days, each day's work being opened with a prayer-meeting. "There was the utmost freedom in the exchange of opinion; and in this way many valuable opportunities were had to correct mis-apprehensions, combat erroneous views, and magnify the office of the ministry. I was astonished at the humble & glad readiness with which suggestions were received and appropriated by the native brethren — older as well as younger. And I was very thankful to find how, with growth in years and experience, the views & judgments of our native helpers more & more nearly approximate to, and finally completely coincide with, those which we bring them from the west.

I should perhaps mention that, in course of the discussion of the first topic, Mr Tondjoroff declared, with perfect good feeling, & in the frankest & most ingenuous way, that his conviction was that the time was near at hand when they must have amongst themselves a church organization of a closer and more substantial character than they now have. I don't know in how far, if at all, others share these his convictions. But he said that Congregationalism, though it might be excellent for Christian America, would not do for the weak and scattered Protestant Churches here. Nothing more was said on this subject by any one; but I think it is worth mentioning.

"Friday of last week (the 23rd inst.) was once more the national holiday — the Day of Saints Cyril & Methodius. You will remember that two years ago the Community here celebrated the day with an open-air singing and preaching service, which, it was hoped, would inaugurate a regular series of open-air services, though this hope was subsequently disappointed. This year, the commemoration, though of a different nature, was exceedingly interesting & satisfactory. It had been previously announced that a commemorative service would be held in the church, at which an opportunity would be given for free discussion on certain topics of great importance spiritually to the nation. The church was exceedingly well filled, almost all the regular "friends" being present, & quite a sprinkling of outsiders in addition. After devotional exercises & a brief but hearty explanation of the reason why the nation had a right to rejoice on that day, Mr Tondjoroff proposed for discussion the following three questions :- (1.) Does the Orthodox (Eastern) Church need to be reformed? (2.) If so, whose duty is it to attempt its reformation? (3.) What means must be used to this end? He himself spoke at some length to these points, especially to the first one, where he quoted the confession of Exarch, Bishops, Priests, (civil) Ministers, Teachers, and others of the highest station and education, who unreservedly acknowledged that the Church does need to be reformed. But although the audience evidently took sincere interest in what was said, nothing that could be called a discussion followed. No one disputed statements or raised objections, though perhaps the one or two outsiders, who left when Mr Toudjoroff concluded, did so to save their consciences. But three or four of the "friends" got up, & in the heartiest possible manner endorsed their pastor's views. The last who spoke – a poor, simple saddle-maker – made a little speech, evidently straight from the heart, which seemed to me the outcome of true christian gentlemanliness. He said he wished to add his thanks to the modern Cyrils & Methodiuses – the missionaries – who were carrying on the work of these two brothers; and he wanted to assure them that he valued their work more highly than that of the two saints, for they had given the nation the Bible in the modern, spoken language, and they themselves, by learning the native language, were coming nearer to the people's heart & understanding than could these ancient worthies."

Before the meeting separated, Mr Toudjoroff explained to them the envelope system of giving, and suggested its adoption. This was agreed to without dissent. I trust it may increase the contributions here as wonderfully as it has in Sophia & elsewhere.

Vicore, I am thankful to say, has been enabled to conquer his doubts & other difficulties, and is once more a regular & earnest attendant upon all the services. His special friends have a good influence upon him (save only on the Baptist question); & there seems every reason to believe that he has been won back to the truth. My confidence in him, however, has been so rudely shaken, that I cannot yet take full satisfaction in his return. I fear there is little likelihood of his ever being eligible for evangelistic work, unless, indeed, his late escapade should work a world of good for him.

I very much regret to say that we are once more in the midst of a strong outburst of the so-called "American fever". One of those who has been considered among the best boys in the Samokov School, & whose services we were hoping soon to secure for this region, started the stampede recently by trumping up a hollow excuse, leaving the school, + going off. The next to follow was Vatralski, who has been doing most excellent work in Hasskeuy for the last year + a half. His case is not quite so disheartening, because the Bulgarian authorities, by unjustly (as we think) trying to secure him for military service, frightened him from returning to Samokov to finish his studies. Still, he need not have gone away thus. The third case is as bad as the first. It is that of one of Mr Tondjoroff's half-brothers, who has been at work in this field for some time, + should have returned to Samokov. All the three proved deaf to the appeals that we made in behalf of their people, — in behalf of the work in its present crying need of labourers, + so forth; and, of course, being deaf to such considerations, they did not stick at the other difficulties. In addition to these, there have also gone to America two young men from our congregation here (not church-members), while a third seems on the point of doing so; but as we have no school or other relations with them, we have, of course, had nothing to say to them beyond giving advice or information when it was asked. This is a very discouraging state of things. It is not really the good education that they desire chiefly: it is pecuniary swaddling-clothes. They want to float through college & seminary on downy beds of ease, & then to return here & command (as they fondly hope) the highest salaries. I hope this is not misjudging them; but so it seems to me.

My reference to the Baptist question reminds me that I had the pleasure, about a couple of months ago, of expounding this matter to the friends here. I was surprised at the interest they took in it. I gave two evening lectures, each of an hour & a quarter in length; and fifty came out the first night, & sixty the second in spite of heavy rain. About one quarter were women. The friends were pleased & seemed thoroughly satisfied; and, as Mr Loudjoroff remarked, the Baptists cannot now repeat their declaration that we hide the truth of the matter. The three Baptists among us (open-communion ones, of whom one is Oricore) were not, of course, convinced; but they have been none the less cordial ever since. I do not think the friends in general here are in danger of going that way.

I cannot close without adding one word upon financial matters. The more I think of it, the more it seems to me (as I wrote you from Monastir) that the youth of our Mission, as compared with the age of the other three Turkish Missions, should be taken more into account. We are just at the growing stage. We cannot be as near self-support as they are. The withholding of a gradual yearly increase in our appropriations just nows renders advance impossible. In my humble opinion, it is a most mistaken policy to launch new mission enterprises, when it can be done only by choking off other missions which are not old enough yet to flourish on restricted fare. I do hope something will be done for us.

We are all in excellent health and spirits. With christian regards from Mrs Thomson & myself,

I am,
Yours very sincerely
Robert Thomson.

Recd June 16

Philippopolis: Eastern Roumelia.
14th June, 1884.

My dear Dr Clark,

I returned from Yambol in the beginning of this week; and, in accordance with a promise which I made to our friends there, I take the earliest opportunity of setting their case before the Prudential Committee through you.

I may say at once that our friends do not now ask the Committee to make them a grant in aid, for the extinguishing of their debt. We have had to tell them plainly during the last 1½ or 2 years that the condition of the Board's finances is such that such a request could not be entertained. Moreover, neither Mr Marsh nor I think it would be well to have their debt paid for them.

At the same time, their circumstances are so trying, and the request which they now make is so greatly modified, that it seems to me the Prudential Committee would be doing a real good if it could see its way to grant their request.

Let me recapitulate briefly the circumstances they are in. In the first place, when they decided to build this new church, the Board had not yet become so straightened financially; and so Mr Bond (as I am told) said to them that they might expect a grant in aid for their building. They relied on this; but the altered circumstances of the Board have made it necessary to disappoint them. This, as it seems to me, should be kept well in memory. In the next place, the friends have themselves paid everything thus far. The original cost of site and building was about 500 Liras. Of this they have paid 383 Liras, in addition to heavy interest on loans. Again, they have continued paying half of the salary of pastor & of teacher, being the only church in our region that does so. Several of the leading members give a tenth of their income to church purposes; & when I was there just now, the financial committee promised, at my request, to introduce the Envelope System, in the hope of securing increased church funds. These things show, I think, that the Yambol people deserve commendation, sympathy, and aid, as anxious to help themselves.

But now they are in straits. The smallest interest they have to pay is 12%; while a considerable portion of it is at the ruinous rate of 30%. The other rates vary between these two extremes. It is this heavy interest that is the load upon them. The people, having given liberally before, are now giving for the debt at a rate which barely (sometimes not at all) enables the trustees to meet the payments when they are due. These trustees have given disproportionately large sums out of their own pockets so as to save the church's honour; but now they feel that they are at their last gasp.

In these circumstances, they make an appeal to the Board, simply asking that it would assume their church's debt, and thus save them from this heavy interest; and they promise, if that is done, to repay the sum in three years. The debt stands at present at 117 Liras; but 27 Liras may be deducted from this, as Mr Marsh has collected a little help for them, and more may possibly be got. This would leave 90 Liras. And if the Board would pay this for them at once, they promise to pay it back at the rate of 30 Liras a year in three years, in the shape of additional giving to their pastor's salary. And if this were done, I believe they would be ready, at the end of the three years, to pay 3/4 of their pastor's salary, instead of the half which they now pay.

I think that in the circumstances this is not an unreasonable request; and I would earnestly urge the Prudential Committee to give it its most favourable consideration.

As this is a request, not for a grant, but simply for an advance, I have not thought it necessary to comply with the instructions of the late Circular, which informs us that the endorsement of the Mission must be obtained to all requests for additional moneys. 2.

Please let me have a reply as early as possible. I trust it may be favourable.

Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Philippopolis June 14, 1884.
Rec'd July 5.

Rev. R. Thomson.
Aug. 11. '84.

Dr. Clark

AMERICAN BIBLE HOUSE
A.B.C.F.M.
25 JUL 84
STAMBOUL
CONSTANTINOPLE

Philippopolis.
21st July, 1884.

Dear Bro. Peet,

I see that I had better not wait to the next Semi-Annual before giving notice of subscriptions received for the new "Morning Star". So I have to ask you, please, to credit to Treasurer Ward for that fund, & to charge to this station, the following:–

	Pias. Gold
From Kazanluk, additional,	18

Yours very truly,
Robert Thomson.

442

P.S.
I have just received your Semi-An-

There must be a misunderstanding somewhere about the special grant against which was to be charged not only a share of the rent of Mr Marsh's house, but also Mr Locke's extra touring expenses (6.08 for the last half year, as per acct. rendered). In asking for this grant last year, Mr Locke and I told the Committee that we were somewhat in the dark as to how much we might need, & suggested that the grant should be renewed yearly until Mr Marsh returns. In reply Secretary Clark told us that it had been thought best not to make this a yearly grant. They simply voted us a certain sum, which was to be drawn upon till exhausted; and then we might ask that it should be renewed. This was Sec. Clark's language; & the impression I got was that it was a grant on a different footing from the Regular and Contingent Estimates, and that it was at our disposal till used up. Please communicate this, if necessary, to Mr Ward. Meanwhile, as I am confident that the charge will be allowed, I shall not debit myself with it unless I hear from you finally that it is disallowed.

Yours,
R. T.

Dr Clark,
This grant was repd. by me,
July 11/83, as per estimates returns
(per Philippopolis).

Philippopolis,
Eastern Roumelia,
27th August, 1884.

My dear Dr Clark,

I have to express my gratitude that the Prudential Committee saw its way to granting my request in connection with the debt on the Yambol Church. As the friends there agreed to the conditions upon which they might have the money, I sent it to them, & now hold their receipt for it. They express their sincere gratitude to the Board for this help, & hope that when this indebtedness is cleared off, they will be able to take a long step towards reaching a self-supporting condition.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely
Robert Thomson.

three years. The debt stands at present at 117
Liras; but 27 Liras may be deducted from this
as Mr. Marsh [illegible] a little help for the
and [illegible] be got. This would
[illegible] Mr. [illegible] of the Board [illegible] pay
this for them at once, they promise to pay it
[illegible] at the rate of 30 [illegible] for the
years, in the shape of additional giving to their
pastor's salary [illegible]
believe this [illegible] at the end of the
three years [illegible]
[illegible]

Philippopolis Aug 27. 84.
Recd Sept. 15.

[illegible] the special grant against
[illegible] to be charged not only a part
of the cost of Mr. [illegible] horse, but also
[illegible] extra touring expenses (see [illegible]
for the last half of the [illegible] per acct. current)
[illegible] last year, the
[illegible] the Committee that we
[illegible] thank us to how
[illegible] and suggested that
[illegible] yearly
until the Board [illegible]. In reply
[illegible] it had
[illegible] not to make this a
yearly [illegible]. They simply voted us
[illegible] which was to be [illegible]
[illegible] that we might
ask that it should be renewed. This was
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] was that it was a grant on a diff.
[illegible] from the regular and Contin-
gent [illegible] and [illegible] it was at our
[illegible]. Please communi-
cate [illegible] if necessary [illegible] Mr. [illegible]. Please
[illegible] confident that the charge
will be allowed. I shall not debit myself
with it unless I hear from you finally
that it be allowed.
Yours,

[illegible]
This [illegible]
Jul 1/85 [illegible]

Philippopolis.
25th October, 1884.

My dear Dr Clark,

A week ago to-day we returned from a three-and-a-half weeks' absence, chiefly occupied in visiting Rustchuk, where the Annual Meeting of the Methodist Mission, to which I was delegate, met this year. Bishop Hurst presided; & nearly the entire force of workers – American & native – was present. A very cordial reception was given to me as delegate; & there evidently is the most hearty desire on the part of all to coöperate with us in every possible way. As an example, they appointed at my suggestion, a committee to act with committees from our mission & from the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, with the view of preventing, as far as possible, the simultaneous publication of identical or very similar books or tracts by these bodies.

It is hard to say just what is the matter with that Mission; but it is by no means strong or flourishing. I have not sufficient acquaintance with it to know whether it is going backwards or or forwards; but it is certainly weak. The system of "Superintendency" seemed to me to have something to do with it: still more so the reckless manner in which Bulgarians are sent out as full-pay American Missionaries: & perhaps to some extent also the unnecessarily high pay given to the native helpers. They do not seem to have got hold of any natives of high mental or spiritual calibre. However, last year was in some respects the best year they had had for some time. Although the Sistov persecutions have succeeded in reducing to a minimum the attendance at religious services, the Mission in the last twelve months has welcomed 16 new members out of a total of about 50. They find also that the Bulgarians treat them with greater consideration since they have become property owners in various places — certainly in Rustchuk, Sistov, & Lovitch. In the latter place they have just finished a fine Girls' School, as well as a mission residence. Bishop Hurst has long had a deep personal interest in the Mission; & he hopes to be able to help it somewhat. By this time, the lady-superintendent for the Lovitch School, & the new Bulgaro-American missionary, whom they were shortly expecting, must have arrived as additions to their force; & Bishop Hurst hoped to be able to send them out an American as director of the Boys' School in Sistov. Mr Jones, who left for America some months ago in ill health, may possibly return.

The Mission's Publication Department seems pretty active. The two Mission Schools cost 275 Liras in excess of their receipts. The Colportage Department, unlike ours, or at least that of this Station, is worked at a loss, — of about 140 Liras for last year.

The Baptists are causing the Mission great trouble, as they are increasingly doing here. The Mission has some thought of publishing a book against them — perhaps a translation in whole or in part of Bishop Merrill's work on Baptism.

Our whole visit was very pleasant, & still more so instructive. Our host, Mr Ladd, was a fellow-student of mine, though not a class-mate, in the N. Y. Union Theological Seminary.

Committee-business took me round to Samokov on our way back, where we spent five pleasant days. While there, your letter to the Mission Secretary, of date 23d Sept. /84, arrived, and caused considerable discussion amongst us. Several of us agreed to write our views, on the matters touched upon, at still greater length to you; & I proceed to give you mine, confining myself, however, to the question of Contingent Appropriations.

You say that our request that the sums relegated to the head of Contingent Appropriations should rather be given us at once along with the Regular Appropriations — strikes you "as quite remarkable". Well, I do think we might have been credited with sufficient sense to understand the meaning of the word "contingent"; but the simple fact is that these appropriations are practically not contingent. As things are at present, we are compelled to act in the faith that that money will be given us; and our request simply amounted to this, that the Home Committee, which seems to have abundant reason now for believing that it may safely include in our Regular Appropriations the sums that we ask for under Contingents, would do so, & so relieve us of great embarrassment. — Perhaps you would like to stop me right here, & say "That is just where we differ: the Committee does not feel that it has abundant reason to believe that it might include your contingent requests along with the regular appropriations". To this I answer, that if that be really so, then it strikes us on the other hand "as quite remarkable" that the Committee fails to take the slightest notice of our great difficulty which we set forth in the resolutions so clearly, and neither allows us the ways out of it that we suggested, nor offers us any other solution of the difficulty.

Let me repeat what that difficulty is. It is simply this, that we must either begin the work (which is contingently provided for) with the beginning of the year in the faith that the money will be forthcoming, or else we must let it stand till the Contingent Appropriations are voted. Now, if you tell us to adopt the first of these alternatives, we reply, as I have already said, "Much better to give us the money right out as Regular Appropriations, & relieve us of suspense, since you believe that the money will likely be "found". But if you tell us to adopt the second alternative, then we must wait till about August before we begin the work, & we must stop it with December. Take, for example, the work in this Station. Since that regulation came into force limiting the sum total of regular appropriations for this Mission to a fixed sum, we of this Station have been compelled to put under the head of Contingents all the

Colportage work + part of the Bible Women's work. Both of these are exceedingly important; + the Colportage work is also very successful here. Yet we might as well give it up, as attempt to work it only after getting word that the Contingent Appropriations had been granted. From July 15th to Sept. 15th is the time when the sales are most reduced: so we should have practically only the 3½ months from Sept. 15th to Dec. 31st in which to do anything. And so with the Bible Women's work, and everything else relegated to the contingent head. But that is simply out of the question. These works, if they are to be carried on at all, must be carried on steadily through the whole year. +

Well, since our first request has been voted "quite remarkable", there is only one other we can think of making: only, unfortunately, if it is not a "quite remarkable" request, it seems no more likely to be successful than the similar requests we made at Annual Meeting time. We propose that, as the Regular Appropriations run from January to January, so the Contingent Appropriations should run (say) from August to August, which is the time when we are generally notified of the granting of the Contingents.

If this proposal is vetoed, I should like to know what advice would be given us. It would be easy enough to relegate to the last quarter of the year the contingent purchase of an organ, or some such matter as that. But the perfor~~f~~mance of work which ought to be regular + steady, + which calls for the employment of a salaried helper (who, of course, must get regular employment), cannot be so relegated. What then are we to do? If we are to stop these works, say so; + we shall do it. But if not, I don't see any other but one of these two ways out of the difficulty – either to go ahead from January + count the Contingent Appropriations as practically non-contingent, or else to allow the Contingent Appropriations to run for a year from the time that we get word of them.

I am sorry to see how much I have written on this subject; but, so far from agreeing with you that "the whole question of contingents seems to have been misunderstood completely" by us, I rather think that our whole difficulty about them seems not to have been understood by the home Committee. And so I have tried to make it clear as it appears to me. I hope you will soon send us an answer, + that it will contain some practical solution of our difficulty.

We are expecting Mr Marsh & family in two or three weeks now, & shall be glad to have them here again.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely
Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis, Oct. 25, 1884
Rec'd Nov. 11.
Ans'd " 17. A.
Cont. fund
&c

1

Philippopolis.
31st December, 1884.

My dear Dr Clarke,

The New Year is to dawn upon us more happily than we feared. Mr Marsh & I have been priming for sending one more urgent appeal in behalf of the Book-work; but just two days ago word came from the Mission Secretary that that Contingent Appropriation (as well as all the others for our Station) had been granted. And so, we have no need to write except to express our thankfulness & happiness; and I daresay you will not object to having to read this kind of letter rather than the other. It is an unspeakable comfort to know at the very outset of the year that we have all the funds which we consider necessary for the efficient carrying on of the work through the coming twelve months. We should, with God's blessing, have a year of effective work, which we trust will show itself in encouraging results.

We begin the new year with some important changes. Mr Boyadjieff, who has for ten years done splendid work as pastor of the Yambol church, was, at his urgent request, and to the great grief of the church, released from his pastorate a month ago. He has now settled in Bazardjik; and, if the Lord should grant him like success in his new field of labour, we may hope in a few years to see the comparatively weak work there built up into a strong church. But in addition to caring for that important town, Mr Boyadjieff will do all he can to foster the work in Tserovo & Lecitzovo, as well as to give fatherly help to the young & new worker in Panagurishte.

This is another of the changes made. It has seemed best for various important reasons to transfer Todor Kostoff, the preacher who has occupied Panagurishte for the last three years or so, to the newly-formed out-station of Nova Zagora and Omarchovo. In his place, we send one of the last July's graduates from the Samokov School, Tsvetko Koomanoff, who, we trust, especially with Mr Boyadjieff's oversight, may bring up Panagurishte to such a state of readiness that a church may be organized there; — a wish we have entertained regarding the place since the summer of 1883, & have twice tried in vain to put into effect.

We were, yesterday thrown into some doubt whether the new out-station is to be occupied as early as we hoped for. Kostoff coddles himself ridiculously, & imagines he is very delicate, &c., &c.; & he evidently had little relish for working in the little village of Omarchovo, where, however, there are far more "friends" than in Nova Zagora. He went to his new field only last Friday, but yesterday we got a telegram from him saying he was coming back here to be doctored, as he had had an attack of chills & fever! I hope he may yet return. If not, he must either go to Tserovo or be dropped. If we had only some one else to take his place, I should not personally much regret the latter alternative, so far as concerns the success of the work.

The important Yambol church is now without a pastor. It called Mr Sitchanoff of Samokov; but he could not see his way to accept. And so meanwhile, C. J. Terzieff, another of last July's graduates is stationed there as preacher. From what we have heard of this young man, but specially from what we saw of him at our recent Yambol Conference, we get the impression that he is decidedly above the average, both as regards ability, piety, & general tone & spirit. If I am not mistaken, we owe to the pleasant accident that his affections got entangled in this field the fact that he is here, instead of "finishing" in America. But now that he is in the work, I think that he will stay; & he promises to do efficient service.

I regret that we were obliged to advise the dismissal of the teacher of the Yambol School on account of most reprehensible conduct; but we were able to supply her place with very little delay, sending a nephew of Mr Isanoff of Samokov – a young man of great earnestness & activity.

From the notice that was taken in the Missionary Herald of our last Conference, I see that there is some misapprehension in regard to it. It is spoken of as a Conference of "the Mission", whereas it was something confined entirely to this Station. The only Mission Conference we have yet had was that one in Samokov in July /83; and one is ordered for July /85. But, in connection with the work of this Station, we have half-yearly Conferences, not for business, but for the discussion of practical and spiritual topics according to a prepared programme. We have hitherto gone upon the principle of inviting all the workers in the eastern half of the field to a Conference in Yambol in November, & all in the western half of the field to a Conference here in April or May: and this has seemed to work very well. The Yambol Conference to which I have already referred (on page 4, near the top) was one of this nature, recurring at its regular time. Mr Marsh gave us the latest news from the American churches; & in addition to this, we discussed the following topics: "Friendly relations of Christian workers with worldly people": "The unity of the workers": "An active Church": and "How may an Evangelical preacher encourage himself in his work". The first & fourth of these topics were specially fruitful of earnest & most profitable discussion; & the latter one was especially high & touching in character & tone. It did not need the heartfelt expressions of thanks on the part of the Native Brethren to assure us of the great profit of which such Conferences must be productive; for we ourselves felt the stimulating & elevating influence of this meeting as fully as any of them could have done. These Conferences will be kept up; & from remarks made on this last occasion, it seems not unlikely that they may expand into Conferences of a still wider & more important character.

I have been very sorry to hear of your ill-health, & sincerely trust that the rest & change you have had may completely restore you. It is not pleasant to think that possibly the urgent cries for funds sent up from this Station may have had a part in breaking you down. I trust that nothing can be charged to the manner in which they have been sent up.

It is a great pleasure to have Mr Marsh back again. He & all his family seem to have greatly improved by their stay in America.

Believe me,
Yours most sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Philippopolis Dec. 31, /84
Rec'd Jan 20/85.

Eur Turkey

Rev. Rob.
Rec Mar 6 85
Ans Do

Philippopolis.
14th February, 1885.

Dear Dr Alden,

I beg that you will be kind enough to write to

Mr C. R. Andrews,
Glyndon : Minn.,

explaining to him why the donation from the Sunday School there, of which he is Superintendent, & which was designated by the donors (without solicitation) for a particular object, is merged in the general funds of the Board. The sum amounts to $. 34.80, is acknowledged in the "Missionary Herald" for January of this year.

Mr Andrews has written enquiring as to how the money is being used, & requesting a letter from "the boy" if possible. A question which I consequently addressed to Mr Peet about the matter, brings back the reply that there are good reasons for this practice, which may be learned on application to the Rooms in Boston.

This is my reason for asking you to write an explanatory letter to Mr Andrews. I trust that in asking you to do so, I have applied to the proper person. I write by this post to Mr Andrews, telling him that I have requested that an explanation be sent him from the Rooms.

Believe me,
Yours very truly,
Robert Thomson.

Thomson)

Bible-House.
30th June, 1885.

My dear Dr Riggs,

My father safely handed over to me the hymn for the "Zornitza": many thanks for it.

When we spoke about the estimates there was one thing that I forgot. If you approve, I should like added to them a request for a grant marked Special for 1885, viz., 30 (Thirty) Liras for my house-rent in Philippopolis. I had my house there by lease to November 1886. As my removal was not of my own choice, & was deemed a necessity, I feel obliged to ask the Board to take the Philippopolis house off my hands, as I hardly am able to pay two rents. Of this 30 Liras, I have already paid half: the other half will be due in November, carrying the rent on to May of 1886. I should hope that by that time Mr Locke or someone else would be ready to take the house for the remaining six months of the lease. Meanwhile, of course, if a tenant for the house can be found, he will be gladly accepted; & anything he pays will go to offset the Board's grant of 30 Liras.

I send you herewith my report of the Annual Meeting of the Methodist Mission, & also one or two other letters, &c.

I trust you will have a very comfortable journey & an enjoyable meeting, and will find Mrs Riggs still in improving health on your return.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

Bible-House,
Constantinople.
11th July, 1885.

My dear Dr Clark,

I have wished for long to write to you, but have found it less easy to get the time here than it used to be in Philippopolis.

I don't know whether there is much use in telling you how I think & feel about our transference to this place. It seemed the only way out of the difficulty that was possible under the circumstances; and therefore, accepting this providential indication & the concurrence of the Mission in the step, I mean to do the best I can, without allowing other considerations to trouble me. Still it may perhaps be just as well that you should know how I have felt about coming here.

You know, I think, that I have all along had a hope that sooner or later

I should find occupation in the literary department of the Mission's work. Our transference, therefore, to Constantinople is in a line with this desire. But I confess it has come sooner than I should have liked. We have been barely over three years in Philippopolis; & the first year of that time was spent chiefly in the study. Two years is too short a time for becoming acquainted with a people, learning their mental & spiritual condition, & finding out how to reach them profitably from the pulpit or through the press. I feel I have had yet too little direct personal contact with individuals. My desire & expectation was to stay on in Philippopolis at least till the end of 86; & I had accordingly taken a lease of the house till that time — a lease which I am very sorry to say I have been obliged, in the circumstances, to ask the Board to take off my hands.

On the other hand again, although I have always desired literary work, it was in the line of the preparation of books & tracts: I never dreamed of taking charge of the "Zornitza" except perhaps in the case of Dr Byington's taking leave of absence for a year or so. I still cling to the hope that Dr Byington, though he may be absent for a longer time than is usual, will return & resume at least a part of this editorial work. I doubt my own fitness for it, or at least for managing the political department of the paper. I fear I am not qualified to write for the Bulgarians on their political matters. I enjoy the other departments of the paper, specially the religious, & would fain hope that good is done through them. Yet I always feel - "who shall come after the king?" At my best, I cannot write the style of article that Dr Byington used to write; & he aimed to make the "Zornitza" useful specially to those who were inclined to atheism & scepticism.

I repeat, I have no intention to allow myself to be discouraged by these fears. I shall do the best I can to keep the paper up to its old standard; & if my fears are disappointed, I shall be only too glad. I just wish you to know that I have been no aspirant to this chair, & that I occupy it with diffidence. And, as Dr Riggs mentions in his report, our circulation is declining somewhat, probably owing to the great numbers of new Bulgarian papers that are being launched. There are many of them that cannot possibly survive long: so perhaps after a time our circulation may go up again.

I think it only right to add that I am not surprised at Dr Byington's break-down. I am rather surprised that he held out so long. The work in this office, if it is to be done properly, seems to me too great for one man. I follow in Dr Byington's footsteps as best I can by keeping the work going after a fashion; but on the one hand the business-department of the paper has to be kept in a style that is almost a disgrace to us; & on the other hand, there is no time for doing justice to books for review, reading the vernacular press thoroughly, & doing other things necessary to keeping up the standard of the paper. For, in addition to the paper, other books & tracts (& too few of them, at present) have to be kept going also.

Believe me, with sincere regards,
Yours very truly
Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, July 11-1885.
Recd July 27

Bible-House: Constantinople.
8th August, 1885.

My dear Dr Clark,

When Dr Riggs returned from Annual Meeting he brought me copies of resolutions then passed, in which I am recommended to insert more religious matter in the *Zornitza*, especially short & pointed articles, & items of religious intelligence from various parts of the world.

I wish to say at once that I am heartily glad that the Mission has passed these resolutions. No one, I think, can fail to admire the grand success that Dr Byington made of building up the paper to its recent circulation: I certainly cannot admire it too much. But while I do so, & while I acknowledge that there is very much to be said for the position that Dr Byington took in regard to the paper (viz. that it was better to do a little good over a large circulation than to do more good over a small circulation), I yet fully share the feeling that the Annual Meeting has expressed in regard to the paper. I think it should be made more distinctively religious, evangelical, & aggressive, even though its circulation should be greatly reduced thereby. It seems to me that it is not exactly a missionary's calling to publish once a week only an exposition of the Sunday School Lesson & a cautious article dealing with Christianity more from an apologetic point of view than anything else, & to spend all the rest of his time on scientific & political articles, & the details of the business-department of the paper. I think that something more decided is called for; & if the Bulgarians are not ready for it after all these years, that is the best proof that the cautious & argumentative articles are not telling as it was hoped they would. Such, at any rate, is the view I take of the matter; & I say it in spite of the fact that I shall encounter (as I am already beginning to feel) the opposition of my native assistants who are very far from being evangelicals, & that I shall be put in the unpleasant position of finding the circulation of the paper going down under my administration. I hope it is not a want of faith that causes us all to anticipate this reduced circulation; but I fear it is inevitable. I need not say I shall do all I can, by the use of tact, & by making the paper as useful as possible, to prevent any such falling off.

This matter has a financial side. With the present arrangement of affairs, I hope it may be some time ére our Publication Department feels the diminished revenue from the paper to such an extent as to become crippled. But that is a thing that may happen. If it should, the question would have to be discussed — "Should the papers be given up? or the publication of books & tracts?" To my mind, there can be no question about the answer. But it is perhaps premature to think of it yet.

Meanwhile, as Dr Riggs is to be absent this winter, & as he has his hands full of other work, I fear that little if any new material can be prepared in the way of books or tracts. The people call for them, & the printer here demands that the compositors should be kept more fully occupied, & we all desire to keep on the issue of fresh publications. But left alone here, I can do next to nothing beyond the work on the papers. I am specially interested, therefore, though we are all deeply interested from esteem & affection, in Dr Byington's condition. I do trust that he may be completely restored, & enabled to return to some share in the work of this department. I do not know his address, & therefore take the liberty of enclosing the accompanying note to Mrs Byington, begging that you will kindly address & forward it.

Believe me
Very sincerely yours,
Robert Thomson.

Conc'ple, Aug. 8, 1885,
Rec'd Aug. 24.

450.

Bible · House : Constantinople.
8th December, 1885.

My dear Dr Clark,

The list of plates in the last consignment sent to us by the American Tract Society included one of the new "Morning Star". But whether at the last moment they found themselves unable to send it, or whether it was lost or taken at the Custom-House we have been unable to discover. At any rate, we have not got the plate.

Now I have reason to believe that the printing of a picture of the "Morning Star" in our Monthlies, especially in the Bulgarian Monthly, whose name means "Morning Star", would be peculiarly useful. I am doing what I can to rid the Bulgarian mind of the idea that America is spending all her strength upon Bulgaria; and amongst the various matters which I have published with this end in view, all of which, I have found, have considerably surprised my readers, one was a list of the various Missionary vessels employed by the Missionary Societies of the world. That quite astonished the readers. Well, if they could just get a look at the ship, + see its size, I think the full impression would be made.

What I want to ask, therefore, is, since we were disappointed of the picture published in the "Illustrated Christian Weekly", is there no picture which the Board itself could either give or lend us for this purpose? I think you know the size of the page of our Monthlies. If there is any good picture you can let us have, I think it would be well bestowed.

This is all I definitely ask for at present; but more than once, as I have looked through the Missionary Herald, I have wished that some of the more striking pictures — + those of more general interest — published there could be at our disposal for the Monthlies. I refer, for example, to such pictures as that on p. 533 of 1884, + on p.p. 214, 293–6, 377, &c. of 1885.

Believe me, with sincere regards,
Yours very truly,
Robert Thomson.

A daughter was born to us on the 24th Nov. All well.
R. T.

451.

Bible House,
Constantinople.
2nd February, 1886.

My dear Dr Clark,

Many thanks for your reply dated New Year's Day. After having consulted with Mr Barnum, I now append a list of those engravings that appeared in the "Herald" during 1885, which we think would do for our papers, & which we should be thankful to receive if you can procure them for us.

I want to write you at some length about this "Zornitza" work, but shall be unable probably to find time for nearly a couple of months to come yet.

With sincere regards,
Yours very truly
Robert Thomson.

1885

January — African Family.
3 May — Honolulu Harbour.
.508 July — Pitcairn Islanders, Story of = 3 pictures.
8 September — African Fetish Priestess.
29 November — Devil Priestess.
34 December — Fuegians in Winter.

Constantinople, Feb. 2, '86.

Rec'd Feb. 26.

Pictures - Dr. Long

Constantinople.
13th April, 1886.

My dear Dr Clark,

I thank you for attending to our request about the cuts from the "Missionary Herald": I trust that in due time they will arrive safely.

I have just been preparing the Station Report in anticipation of Annual Meeting, to which I hope to go; & I think that I had better write to you at once regarding the work of this Station.

You will understand that I am as far as possible from wishing to find fault with Dr Byington if I express the conviction that some change in the method of conducting the paper had latterly become desirable. Words of mine could not easily describe the splendid success that he made of the paper, or the valuable work that he did through it. What the paper is to-day is entirely owing to him. All that I, in sympathy with (I think) most of the Mission, felt was that Dr Byington was keeping himself too exclusively, & longer than was necessary, to the line of Apologetics, specially with the view of meeting the prevailing infidelity. I do not by any means mean to say that there is no further need for articles of this sort: such are still inserted by no means unfrequently. What I mean to say is just that I believed that an advance from this position was desirable. Articles less learned, more short and pointed, appealing rather to the conscience than to the intellect, + more decidedly + simply evangelistic in tone, were needed. These Dr Byington did not think it best to insert very frequently. We all also felt that news as to the progress of God's kingdom all over the world was for several reasons urgently needed in the paper; + so on.

Changes of this sort I have tried to introduce. It is no mock humility on my part to say that I am conscious — sometimes painfully conscious — that the paper has got into hands of vastly less ability than it used to be in. Had there been any one else to take charge of the paper, I should never have accepted the editorship: that is a work that I never dreamed of when I cherished the hope of joining the publication department. But it is so clear to me that my call here was providential + unmistakable, that I find it easy, while doing my own best, to leave the result in God's hands.

We all calculated that these changes, + specially the devoting of more space to religious matter, would cause a decrease in the paper's circulation. This expectation was also strengthened in my mind by the position I took up in the department of political news. It may be that my own _inability_ to write political articles helped my view of the matter: yet I think that my position is impartially the result of my convictions, which are, that we, as missionaries, have no business to take an active part in the politics of the country. Our part is simply to chronicle events as accurately as possible, only reserving for ourselves the liberty of speaking out when questions of right or wrong come up. This is the position I have taken. I do not mean to say that the paper formerly used to have a very prominent political influence in the country: still, it had its views, & expressed them. I have my views too: yet, though it is perhaps unavoidable that they should give a slight colour to our summary of news, I do not feel that I have any right, by expressing them freely, to aid & abett those who insist that missionary work has political schemes behind it.

All these things prepared me for a great diminution in the circulation this year. In ordinary years, I think the expectation would have been realized. But the maintenance of martial law in Bulgaria has operated towards the suspension of nearly every native paper, & consequently has created a very unexpected demand for the "Zornitza". The result is that, while we stood at

3,100 at this time last year, we stand at nearly 4,300 now. The circulation of the Monthly, however, owing to the disorganization of the schools, has gone down from 3,000 to 2,500.

It would, I think, have been fatal to the paper if an attempt had been made to bring up at once the proportion of it devoted to more or less direct religious teaching to the 75% which you said it ought to be. Indeed, I doubt whether the paper could live with such a proportion of religious matter. But I have made a beginning in the way of devoting more space to religious subjects by commencing with the new year a series of Letters to the Clergy. They cover ground that to us is very elementary — the need of personal piety, high character, & good education on the part of the clergy, & the absolute necessity for bringing Bible truth to bear on the hearts of the hearers —: yet to many of the Bulgarian clergy most of these ideas will come as perfectly novel. Beyond the fact that a larger number of priests than usual are on our subscription-list this year, & that I get a few responsive letters complaining of the drunkenness, &c., of the clergy, I have no means of knowing whether these epistles of mine are likely to do any good or not. Indeed, on all religious matters, I find the people generally deplorably indifferent. Nothing seems able to rouse them to take an interest in such questions: they apparently refuse even to be made angry. It would be working on in the dark were it not for occasional words of cheer from the brethren, & for the belief that work done in God's name & committed to Him, will be taken care of by Him.

And now, you must not think me complaining if I say that the work in this office is too heavy to be borne for any long time. I am sure you have not realized how it has been. I am only surprised that Dr Byington stood it so long: I don't think I could stand it more than two or three years. Both Dr Byington & Dr Greene declared that it was the business department of the paper that taxed them so heavily, not the editorial work: & I find the same, especially since, as I have explained, I write more for the paper myself, & since the circulation has increased thus. We have to be editors, managers, & clerks all in one. If it were a question of hard work, I would not mind it; but I am sure you will agree with me that it is not desirable that I should often again be compelled, as I have been during the first 3½ months of this year, to carry home office-work with me five nights out of every week, after a long day's work in town, & sit up regularly till midnight & often past it, & even then sometimes fail to keep abreast of the work. And if you add to that the worry (which is the worst of all) of knowing that neither department of the paper was being managed as it ought, you will see that the strain is too heavy. For, under such circumstances, I can get no time even to glance at the Bulgarian books & papers received, so that I cannot keep in sympathy with national feelings and thoughts. Yet on the other hand our accounts are really not kept at all: we have just to be content with a slip-shod hand-to-mouth sort of method of book-keeping which keeps us going & nothing more. I fear we lose money every year owing to this. We have about 200 agents to deal with, & have nearly 2000 separate addresses on our lists.

We have two native-helpers in the office. Of the one, the entire time is occupied with translating & collating for the Weekly. The time of the other, according to his contract, should go on translating the Monthly & the books & tracts undertaken by the Publication Department. So, if the Pub. Dept. were in full swing as it ought to be, his time also would be fully occupied. This year he has very kindly given me great & most efficient assistance: yet notwithstanding it, I was pressed as I described during the first 3½ months of the year: & at the same time the other work of the Pub. Dept. (i.e., apart from the papers) has been absolutely at a stand-still.

Now I think that there is enough work in the business-department alone to keep a clerk well occupied all the year round. The two difficulties in the way of engaging one would be the expense, & the amount of responsibility that would be thrown upon him. As regard the expense, a plan has suggested itself to me which I mean to lay before Annual Meeting. One of our most successful agents lately offered to become our regularly appointed travelling agent, saying he could easily secure 1000 new subscribers. The proposal was not then accepted. But if that man, or some one like him, could act as clerk & book-keeper here for 8–10 months a year, & travel as agent the rest of the time, his salary & travelling expenses would be more than covered by the extra 1000 subscribers. My belief is that, with a good agent, we could go beyond that figure. I think the plan would be worth trying at least, if a good man could be found. As regard the responsibility thrown on him, I should just have to keep him well in view!

I have told you frankly about this; and, as I have said, I write in no spirit of complaint. But I don't think I could stand this very long; & I don't think you would wish that I should attempt it.

Were I set free from the clerking & accountant work, I should probably be able to give a little time to the other work of the Publication Department — books & tracts, but not enough to keep the translator busy. We ought to have another missionary here for that work. Good Dr Riggs, even were he here, could do but little. We are losing grand opportunities these days. Yet not only are we not getting out new books, we are not even able to get out new editions of old books that have become exhausted. We certainly ought to keep our books on the market. But with only one missionary here, & he in charge of the papers, next to nothing can be done.

It seems to me that our mission is very short-handed. If no one can come here from the other stations; & if Dr Riggs, Dr Byington, & Mr Jenney are to be counted out, we should get some new men. Were I to be laid up ill for a week, there is not a creature here who could read over the translator's work, & see that no errors go to press.

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, Apr. 13, 86

Rec'd May 3.

453.

Bible-House : Constantinople.
27th August, 1886.

My dear Dr Clark,

On the evening of Monday of this week, the 23rd inst., I received a laconic intimation from the Censor of the Press that the "Zornitza" had been suppressed by order of the Grand Vizier. The reason given was that I had, in the 31st number (of August 14th) published "false & seditions news"; & this pleasing indictment was published the next day in the local newspapers.

The matter complained of was a correspondence (sent, by the way, from our own preacher) from Macedonia, giving details of some further outrages by brigands, &c., & begging the attention of the government. Founding on this correspondence, I had written a brief editorial, again calling attention to the sufferings of the Macedonians at the hands of brigands, suggesting means of remedy, & urging the immediate & merciful attention of the government to the great distress of the people.

It is a great relief to me to be able to tell you that, although Mr Barnum thinks he would scarcely have ventured to publish in the "Avedaper" the lines that I had written, Mr Dwight & the rest of the missionaries & Mr Boyadjian himself – the printer, who is very cautious, are all of opinion that there was nothing whatever rash in what I had written. They say that the other local papers are constantly writing paragraphs much more plain-spoken & severe than mine. Indeed, the paragraph in question was not different in any way from other paragraphs which have appeared in the "Zornitza" once or twice since I took charge of it. All were unanimously of opinion that the real reason for the suppression of the paper had not been given; & that the paragraph in question was merely put forward to give some show of reason for the step.

It is not, I think, difficult to guess what the real reason was. The news of the second revolution in Bulgaria reached Constantinople late in the afternoon of Saturday the 21st inst. The Turkish Government is (and, I must confess, very naturally) greatly irritated over this second upturn, bringing with it, as it does, so much worry to them. In a fit of sudden anger, & possibly with the desire of preventing news of these doings being disseminated in Macedonia (where the "Zornitza" is the only paper that circulates), they suddenly determined to visit their wrath on everything Bulgarian, &, amongst other things, annihilated the paper.

There are several supports to this guess. In the first place, the Turks have for long wished to get rid of the paper, & made a special attempt no less than three or four years ago. In the second place, the decree of suppression did not come till the article in question was nine days old, & its coming was on the first week-day after the receipt of the news of the revolution. And in the third place, the interview that I had along with the Dragoman of the Legation with the acting chief of the Bureau of the Press confirmed this belief. This functionary was quite unable to say anything in justification of the step; & the final issue of our interview was that, of his own accord, he said twice over, "In the present temper of the ministers, it is quite impossible to do anything; but let a little time pass — let matters cool down, & I myself will go to the Minister & persuade him to let the paper re-appear."

Of course we are not content to let the matter rest thus; + so Mr Dwight, who has a great deal of experience in this kind of work, kindly drew up a comprehensive + firm statement of the case which, after I had seen it, he forwarded yesterday to the American Minister.

The prominent feature in the matter is the glaring injustice of the proceeding. Granting, for argument's sake, that the Government had just ground of complaint in the paragraph in question, the Law of the Press provides that an editor must first be three times warned + then suspended once or twice before the extreme step of suppression can be resorted to. The "Zornitza", however, has not received a warning for $8\frac{1}{2}$ years; + it therefore had practically a clean record. It was entitled to the full number of warnings + su{spen}~~[illegible]~~sions before being suppressed; though, I need not say, I should not have persisted in writing even such things as I did write, if I had been warned that it was distasteful to the government.

This suppression applies to the Weekly paper, but not to the Monthly.

We all feel that there seems to be some

hope that permission will again be given to continue the paper, & that comparatively soon. But as this is Turkey, & it is a Bulgarian matter that is in question, & the dignity of the Government is compromised through the fact of the suppression having been published in all the papers, we think that we shall be extremely fortunate if we get our permission in the course of a month or six weeks.

I greatly grieve over this interruption to our work. It is true that, just at present, we could not have got the paper sent into either Bulgaria or Eastern Roumelia, since the Bulgarians have once more cut the communications; but the suppression will damage the reputation of the paper from a business point of view. Our subscribers have hitherto felt that a subscription to the "Zornitza" was a safe investment. I am sorry, too, that Macedonia must remain without a ray of intelligence all these weeks.

Meanwhile, we have not lost a day's work. About ten days before the suppression I had at last got the business-department so far passed over to the new assistant whom the Annual Meeting permitted me to engage, that I had found some leisure to resume work on the books and tracts. This is what we are now busy with; & I expect we shall get a good deal done.

You will not, I am sure, forget to pray that the Lord will incline the hearts of the authorities to give us renewed permission to publish, & that I may be enabled in the future to conduct the paper with still greater caution.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely

Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, Aug. 27. '86.
Rec'd. Sept. 13

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Dear Dr Clark,

I am requested by Mr Locke to forward directly to you the accompanying Circular Notes, which have already been delayed through a mistake.

There is nothing further to report as to the "Zornitza" as yet; but we shall be at it again in the beginning of next week.

Very sincerely yours,
Robert Thomson.

Constantinople,
4th September, 1886.

Constantinople.
21st September, 1886.

Dear Dr Clark,

I have nothing to tell you directly regarding the main question — the suppression of the Weekly Zornitza. The matter is in the hands of the Legation; & when I last saw the Dragoman, he told me that there was nothing for me to do at present. He was then hopeful that he would eventually succeed in getting us started again, but evidently was prepared for a long & hard fight over the matter.

But some more side-light has been thrown on the affair. Hitherto we have for convenience' sake treated the Monthly as a newspaper, although it is not that in any sense of the term. We proposed going on with it as usual, as I never dreamed that there could be a question in regard to it; but the printer here, Mr Boyadjian, would not risk its publication unless we came to a distinct understanding about it with the censorship, because it bears the same name — Zornitza. So, after consultation,

+ by advice of the Dragoman, I went to the Censor about it. It turned out that Mr Boyadjian knew the Turks better than we did: the Censor said that the Monthly could not appear. But in reply to my arguments, he quite betrayed himself to me. I am very glad that I saw him alone; for he was more unguarded in his language than he would have been had the Dragoman been there. He told me that they had come to the decision to let no Bulgarian sheet of any sort appear at Constantinople. That fully confirms the view that I have already expressed to you; + I am very glad to find that the brethren in all the three stations of the Mission take the same view. That is to say, the paper was not really in fault; but a pretext was searched for; and, as I have discovered, a falsified translation of the paragraph in question was used as giving some shadow of a ground on which to base a pre-determined decree.

From all that I know, we should certainly have no hope of starting the Weekly again were we without official help. It remains to be seen whether that help will avail us anything. As for the Monthly, we shall probably succeed in getting that out through the Department that grants us permission for books

& tracts, since it is not in any sense a newspaper. But we shall probably have to change both its shape & its name.

In publishing our programme in the beginning of the year, I said that, in the political department, we should strictly confine ourselves to publishing a summary of the most authentic news. This programme I have faithfully followed, not having written one line of original articles in the political department. I made only this limitation that in matters of right & wrong we should reserve to ourselves the liberty of expressing an opinion. I had then in mind persecutions of Jews & Protestants, & partisan excesses. On the latter subject I had occasion once to write a brief article, in the interest, of course, of moderation & brotherly forbearance. And I felt that under the same category came the duty of occasionally drawing attention to the outrages by brigands in Macedonia — a purely non-political matter: hence the paragraph in question; though, as I have already said, we are all agreed in considering the fault found with it as a mere blind.

I find that the opinion is gaining here that the suppression is due to Russian influence; because, in the very selection of news published, it was scarcely possible for the paper to conceal the fact that its sympathies, like those of all Americans, were with the Prince & the majority of the nation. Indeed, I have it on the best authority that the traitorous party threatened to exclude it from the country if ever they came into power. All this is in spite of the political department of the paper having been reduced in size since the beginning of the year, & presented in as colourless an aspect as I was capable of picturing.

The work of the books & tracts goes on well; though the censorship is very slow in its examination, not having yet passed the first tract that was sent in to it — Newman Hall's "Come to Jesus."

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely

Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, Sept 21.
Rec'd Oct 4, '86.
Ans. 5.

Bible-House: Constantinople.
28th December, 1886.

My dear Dr Clark,

I have been sorry to hear of your poor health of late. I trust that your visit to Clifton Springs has done you good, & that you are able now for a fair amount of work.

It is long since I wrote to you regarding the "Zornitza" business. Over & over again I have been on the point of writing to you – sometimes to say that all hope seemed at an end; at other times to say that we were on the eve of getting permission. But my hopes have been up & down with almost every new day; so that now I am in the rather dazed condition of neither trusting my hopes nor dreading my fears.

It would be a strange story – this story of the fight for our rights – were I to recount it to you step by step. All the usual plausible excuses for delay have been resorted to; & in addition to this we were told for about a month that the documents in regard to the matter had been lost & were being sought for. The illness of the Minister of the Interior has also been against us. The latest developments of the case leave no doubt in my mind that this whole business has been a deliberate conspiracy against the paper. The official reports sent in to the Grand Vizier on the subject, we proved to him to be false. In my own presence he read over the correct translations of the articles complained of, which we furnished to him as against the official translations; & he pronounced the articles "perfectly innocent". "There must be some mistake, or some other reason", he said.

And now, when the official in the Bureau de la Presse finds that he can't go on that tack any longer, his latest achievement has been to report to the Minister that the "Zornitza" had permission solely as a religious paper, & that therefore, if permitted to reappear, it must be prohibited from giving any news. Fortunately for the official in question, the Dragoman shewed him the written terms of the permission which the "Zornitza" received, which shewed that his statement was quite false; & he, sending in all haste to recover his report, which he had already dispatched, was able to secure it before it reached the Minister's hands. So now he will write a new report; & it remains to be seen what new ground he will take against us, which we shall have to expose as false.

This is the Official that is giving us all the trouble. The Grand Vizier + Minister of the Interior are, so far, negatively favourable to us; but they don't do anything positive to help us. And so this under-official only needs to rack his brains for some new charge to trump up against us (no matter though not specified in the order for suppression), to compel us to wait till we can go through all the roundabouts necessary to show that the charge is false. Anything like getting damages for all this is, of course, out of the question. But, to my mind, the worst feature of the whole is that the Grand Vizier + the Minister should see this Official convicted before their own eyes of official falsification, + yet should never dream of removing or reprimanding him.

What the reason of this Official's hostility is I cannot pretend to say. I find that almost every person thinks that he has been influenced to this action, directly or indirectly, by the Russians. And on the whole, though I have no proof, I think this is most likely. Yet if so, it is a proof that the Russians cannot stand the publication of unvarnished, reliable "news — facts", published without note or comment, not to say without accompanying leading-articles.

I had greatly hoped that we might be running again for a month before the end of 1886, so as to secure subscribers for 1887; but now it looks as though at least some weeks of 1887 must pass before we can start. That will be a heavy blow to our subscription-list, I fear. But I cannot doubt that out of all this the Lord of the work will evolve blessing for His work. It may not be as I hope & desire; but I feel sure it will be in the best way.

Meanwhile the work of publishing books has been going on as fast as the quarantine (delaying Mr Boyadjian's printing-paper) & the Censor's Office ~~would~~ have permitted. Five little books have been completed, of which four are new editions (corrected in some cases) & one is a new book; while a sixth, also a new book, a sketch of Luther & the Reformation, is approaching completion. And now I am making ready to prepare fresh material.

I am reminded that we last week completed five years of missionary work. They have been years of almost unalloyed happiness: any diss-atisfaction with them in the retrospect must be put solely to the account of our own faults & failings. It is a delightful corner of the vineyard to work in — interesting & encouraging, & with some peculiarly pleasant features. And as for our fellow-labourers — it would not be possible to be thrown in beside a band of Christian men & women with whom it could be easier & more profitable to work.

I am sorry to say that the change from Philippopolis to here does not seem altogether to suit my wife's health. The damp of this atmosphere puts her under threat of the rheumatic troubles to which she was subject in Scotland. But in addition to this she has been quite poorly for the last six or eight weeks, suffering, the doctor says, from lack of blood in the system. She is not *ill*, but pale & feeble, unable for almost any exertion, & apparently not making much progress, despite the doctor's treatment. I am seriously thinking of sending her in early spring to pay her parents a six or seven months' visit. The sea-voyage & the change I think will do her good. But the children & I enjoy excellent health.

And now, wishing you all the good wishes of the season, & hoping that 1887 may be for mission-work all over the world a year of greater blessing than any previous one,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, Dec. 28, 1886.]

Rec'd Jan. 14.

Zornitza

✓

Constantinople,
7th February, 1887.

My dear Dr Clark,

Your letter of the 15th January reached me this morning; & this afternoon I had the pleasure of dispatching a telegram to you announcing that permission for the re-appearance of the "Zornitza" had been granted. It has been a long fight — 5½ months in duration; but the issue has been successful at last. I thank God for it, & trust that I may take this as a token that He still has use for the paper. If so, — if He is to bless it in the future even as He has done hitherto, to say nothing of His blessing it still more, it will be happy work to be busied with it.

Your suggestion about getting out the paper under a new name has not been absent from my mind as a possibility that might have to be tried. But I felt that it should be tried only if I failed in getting the old paper resuscitated. The official who suppressed us, & whose action has been overruled by superior officers, tried to turn this permit into a permit for a new paper. If he had succeeded, that would have lessened his own rebuff, & lessened also our success. But the Grand Vizier ordered the permit to be altered so as to make it a resuscitation of the old paper; & that is what we secured to-day.

It seems that the higher officials have unanimously been favourable to us, on account of the judgment given, in regard to the articles complained of, by the Bulgarian Political Agent here — Dr Vulkovitch. The Agent is an old friend of the Grand Vizier's, & was applied to to translate the articles into Turkish. His translation elicited three things — all in our favour. First, the contents of the articles were harmless:—so said all the higher officials. Second, the translation that we furnished, so far from being an attempt to gloss the articles over, turned out to be (in the Turkish) unnecessarily harsh. And third, the official translation furnished by the man who suppressed us proved not only to be exaggerated, but also to be maliciously falsified. It is possible that this man may himself have been imposed upon, as he does not know Bulgarian; but, any way, he was responsible for the report. Whether he knew that it was falsified or not, it is very probable that he was bribed to take this action by some unknown enemy of ours.

Our publication of books & tracts has progressed very well meanwhile. We have encountered only one difficulty. In reprinting the book "Simple teachings on Prayer", which contains at the end a few sample prayers, we followed the first edition in using the word "Czar" to denote king or sovereign; for in Bulgarian, that title is used for the Italian or Spanish king just as much as for the Russian. The Censorship, however, objects to the word, interpreting it as teaching the Bulgarians to pray for the Russian Czar; & it desires us to substitute for it "Sultan". We, on the other hand, object to that, for we know it will be offensive to the Bulgarians of the Principality, if not to all of them. So we proposed another Bulgarian word – a general one, meaning sovereign. But the Censorship will not agree to it. I must have an interview with one of the officials, to see if I can persuade them to come to terms. If not, we shall probably have to cut out that petition altogether, though I should be sorry to do so.

My wife, I am thankful to say, is much better than when I wrote in the end of December. Still, there is something or other that persistently remains wrong; & she will not be thoroughly well till that is cured. The doctor here seems quite unsuccessful in his treatment. I am therefore still holding to the plan of sending her to Scotland (D.V.) next month. You understood, I hope, from the manner in which I spoke of this in my last letter, that the trip is not to be at the Board's expense. My father-in-law is kindly helping us; &, by sub-letting our house & economising a little, we expect to manage without difficulty. At the same time, I am not doing this without good advice. My wife's friends & the physician whom they have consulted think it is the best step to take. I hope for good from it; for this trouble has no resemblance to or connection with the rheumatism from which she suffered at one time a great deal at home.

Believe me, with kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, Feb. 7. 87.

Rec'd Mar. 1.

Constantinople.
16th April, 1887.

Dear Dr Clark,

I am very grateful for the words both of sympathy & of congratulation which you have addressed to me in connection with the suppression & the resumption of the "Zornitza". You will be glad to hear that subscriptions have come in very well since we started anew _ somewhat over two months ago now. In that time we have received 500 new subscribers; so that our total list now stands at 4,100. This is not quite as well as we did a year ago; but at that time our paper was the only one in the field, & so had unusual advantages. But we are considerably ahead of the average of the last year or two. This, however, applies only to the Weekly paper. The Monthly is still below the average, as it has not recovered from the shock to its circulation caused by the closing of the schools during the time of the revolution & war. But I mean to make special efforts by means of my travelling agent to bring up the Monthly also.

I am somewhat encouraged to see signs here & there that the Clergy are waking up to some sense of their great responsibilities. Appeals in regard to these, & latterly in special regard to the need of preaching, have been addressed to them in the paper. Before we were shut up I received a good many letters & messages showing gratitude that any one cared to interest himself in them & to address them in brotherly tones; & since our resumption there have been manifested even further signs. One priest sent me a copy of a sermon he had been stirred up to preach. Poor man: it shewed that he had no idea of the gospel; but it gave me the chance in a private letter to him to set it before him, & at the same time to encourage him in his honest effort to expound the Bible to his people. In another place, a dignitary, who expects soon to be made a bishop, sent me printed copies of a few sermons he had preached. They by no means reflect either the eloquence or the learning or even the spirituality of any of the great preachers either of ancient or modern times: very far from it. Besides this, one had an unworthy fling at Protestants generally, & another at me in particular. Still as there was only one sentence in all the seven sermons that I could object to as a Protestant, & as there was plenty of simple explanation of the Church Lessons followed by much admirable advice to his hearers, I was rejoiced to see them. And so, reserving my criticisms + protests for a private letter to him, I was able to commend his sermons to the public + to give extracts from the best of them. Another day, a priest came saying that he had just been newly ordained. As a teacher he had rec'd the appeals, + had been stirred up to devote himself to the Ministry; + when he presented himself before the Exarch for ordination, he told him that his intention was to give himself to preaching + to the reform of the church. The Exarch told him he didn't think he'ld get people to listen to him, yet gave him his sanction + ordained him. He bought many of our Mission-publications, + seemed full of enthusiasm. Other signs + testimonies are not wanting to indicate that at least a portion of the Bulgarian Clergy would gladly do better if they only knew how, + had a friendly interest exhibited in them. I believe we need to pray more than we do for the native clergy. Their position every way is unenviable. If they could be favourably disposed towards the truth they would still have a large influence in the country.

The following letter, which I lately received, has an interest of its own:—

"....*As I was travelling on private business from Sophia to Karlovo, my way, of course, lay through Zlatitza and Pirdop. On Saturday evening, I arrived in Pirdop.... ... Next morning, as I was in a great hurry, I bargained with a driver & started. About ten minutes after leaving my khan, I passed by another khan which had open doors. From within I heard a loud chorus singing, "Behold the western evening light! It melts in deepening gloom, &c." Such a beautiful melody, such a chorus, such words in this village! I was astonished, and, although in haste, called out to my driver to stop, got down, & told him to wait for me, as I wished to see who these singers were. "Ah, sonnie," he answered, "they are Protestants: don't go in: they'll deceive you." "All the better," I replied, "if they are such. You come also, father." "Eh, I *will* come," answered the 60-year old man, & we two entered the khan hand in hand..... ¶ "A gentleman was preaching the word of God; & his wife led the singing. I joined in the singing & listened attentively to the sermon, & in this the old driver began to imitate me, — the man who a little before had called to me, "Don't go in: they are Protestants: they'll deceive you." Prayer was offered; & both the old man & I took part in it. It didn't occur either to the driver or to me to hurry, as Karlovo was far away. We thought that we were in —

Paradise!" After the service closed, I found that the gentleman was the brother of respected Mr Toudjoroff [of Philippopolis]. After exchanging a few words with him & his wife, we took leave & started again. I began to sing one of the hymns that had been sung – "Come home, come home". As I sang, I observed that the old man wiped some big tears from his eyes. "Why are you crying, father?" I asked. He replied, "Why should I not cry? I am sixty years old; yet no day in my life have I ever been so privileged as to-day. I am sorry that I have spent all my life in sins"; & he wept still more. Although I, as a young man of 26, wanted to show myself more firm, the thankfulness that filled the old man's heart was in mine also; so I also couldn't restrain my tears. "Father", I asked him presently, "would you like that we should offer a prayer here such as the preacher offered?" "I would", he quickly answered. We stopped the horse, got down, and, with tears in our eyes, there under the open heaven, gave thanks to God for that happy day.)

"Can any one say now that there is anything more powerful than God's magnet. A man who, two or three hours before, had cried, "Beware of them: they are Protestants," now was grieving with bitter tears that he had not earlier in life taken refuge amongst them."

"~~A. R.~~"

Believe me,
Dear Dr Clark,
Yours very sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

I have word of the safe arrival in Liverpool of my wife & children.

R. T.

16, 1887.
Rec'd Apr. 30.

459.

Bible-House: Constantinople.
21st May, 1887.

Dear Dr Clark,

In forwarding to you herewith the documents from our Annual Meeting, I should like to add just a word, believing that, in a case like this of Mr Sleeper's, any silence that would appear like indifference would be unjustifiable.

I say nothing of the past, or of his present step; but I do want to say that we ought not to dream of losing Mr Sleeper, if any power of persuasion can keep him in our ranks. He is a most valuable man. I am exceedingly sorry that he feels unable to continue in connection with the school, for he has done better work in it than he, perhaps, is aware of. But that is no reason why he should not come back to the Mission. We all love him: we all admire him: we may not all see exactly eye to eye with him in everything, but we cannot doubt his earnestness & efficiency; & I believe that, whatever work he might take up, he would leave his mark deeply & for good upon the field. For my part, rather than have him not return, or go to some other field, I should be willing to approve his working at _anything_ that seems reasonably likely to prove useful.

I have already written him urging him to return to us; & I shall renew my efforts. Meanwhile, I hope that you, unless your fuller knowledge of the case gives you strong reasons for thinking otherwise, will use your influence with him & his friends to have him return. The other arguments — the time & strength he has spent on the study of the language, the impression on people at home, our great need, &c., &c., are obvious.

In this connection, let me say another word about the manning of Samokov Station. One of the elements in Mr Sleeper's case undoubtedly is over-work. And we all know that Dr House has lately been on the point of breaking down. With these facts before me, I feel strengthened in feeling that the Samokov brethren were very much mistaken in thinking, a few years ago, that their Station was over-manned, so that they were ready to part with one missionary — & have done so. Look at the work of the Station:— The Coll. & Theol. Institute (which is work, not for the Station alone, but for the whole field), the Pastorate of the Samokov Church, the field-work, the charge of the premises, the Station accounts, & the Book Department; & realize that Dr Kingsbury, with his medical work, & Mr Clarke, with his feeble health, are each able to do practically only half a missionary's work in these departments of labour; & I think it becomes clear that to have only two men besides them in the Station is insufficient. Counting these two as one, I think that Station needs four men. With a less force than that, the brethren are overworked, with results such as we now see. If Philippopolis & Monastir each needs two men, Samokov needs certainly double.

Thus it appears to me that the call for new workers in our field is very loud. We are short-handed, not merely as regards work that might be done, but as regards work that now needs to be done. With Drs Riggs & Byington away & Mr Sleeper doubtful, we are crippled. I hope our cry will be heard.

I should add that Mrs Sleeper is no less valued than her husband. Evidently she could do good work in the literary department.

The Turks are troubling us again. This time it is eight little tracts that they refuse to permit. The tracts were all approved by the Censor as right & proper (except only 7 lines which he struck out); & he had written his permission on them. But the superior Council undertook to cancel his permission & to refuse them on the general ground that Tracts are not to be permitted! Of course, we shall fight this out; & the brethren here seem to think I shall succeed. But these incessant skirmishes are annoying. This will form one item of several that are to be brought before the notice of the Evangelical Alliance.

My news from Scotland are favourable on the whole thus far.

Believe me, dear Dr Clark,
Yours most truly
Robert Thomson.

Cons'ple, May 21, 1887.
Rec'd June 6.

Inf - Supn - tract ✓

Constantinople.
22nd July, 1887.

Dear Dr Clark,

To-day, after a little more than six months' delay, & only by the aid of the American Legation, I have received permission for the 8 inoffensive little tracts which the Government here informed me at first would not be permitted. Were it not for the difficulty & annoyance caused, the whole thing would be extremely ludicrous. As it was, when they gave in & permitted the tracts, they told me that I must change the titles. I did not see the point at first, & objected that a title must correspond to the contents that follow. But after some expostulation, a hint was dropped which enabled me to see what was wanted. The Ministry had passed a resolution, previous to the intervention of the Legation, to the effect that the 8 tracts submitted by me, of which the titles were So-&-so and So-&-so, could not be permitted. But now, when obliged to give way, they wished to save their dignity, & to be able to permit the tracts under new names, as though they were something quite different! As soon as I understood that, I readily assisted in soothing their feelings, & went through the farce of changing "The Future World" into "The World to come", "Christ our Companion" into "Christ our Fellow Traveller", & so on; & they were perfectly satisfied!

Already, however, I have another fight on hand. The little (27-page quarto) pamphlet, descriptive of Dr Livingstone's Life & Work is "absolutely refused" on the ground that he went to christianize Africa, & "Africa is a Mohammedan country"! Our brethren of the Zulu & other Missions may be interested to hear that the Ministry of Instruction of the Turkish Empire claims as Mohammedan all the population of the Cape of Good Hope & the territory explored by Dr Livingstone! I am curious to see whether the Ministry will really put this objection in black & white that I may present it to the higher officials & to the Legation in my protest.

I have just completed & sent in for approval the Life of Luther – a book of some 270 pages. But from the way things have been going, I anticipate difficulty with this also, especially if the suspicion be correct that it is the Roman Catholics (who are in favour & influence at present) who are stirring up opposition to the work of the Board in Turkey.

Believe me, with sincere regards,

Yours very truly,

Robert Thomson.

Con'ple, July 22, 1887,
Rec'd Aug. 6.

Constantinople.
24th October, 1887.

My dear Dr Clark,

Bro. Locke told me lately that a certain semi-weekly journal in Philippopolis called the "Justice" had been publishing a series of articles severely attacking our persons & our work. He said that the articles are written by a person who is believed to be half or wholly crazy. By to-day's post I have received the first copy that I have seen of the "Justice". It has apparently been sent to me for the special reason that this article in the series devotes itself to the "Zornitza". It has occurred to me that it would interest you to see this article; so I send you herewith a translation. The only explanation that I need make is that we have lately been inserting temperance articles from time to time specially in connection with the work of the Women's World Temperance League.

To-day's post also brought the copies of the Springfield Republican with reports of the late Annual Meeting; but there has not been time yet to do more than glance through them.

I am thankful to say that the subscriptions to the "Zornitza" keep up very well — astonishingly well in these hard & unsettled times. Far advanced as the year is, every week adds to our subscription-list, which is already slightly beyond the average of the last few years.

Believe me, dear Dr Clark,
Yours most sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Translation.

Zornitza
Weekly Newspaper
Year 12.

One of the most important propagandist newspapers & publications of Protestantism in our midst is undoubtedly the newspaper "Zornitza", which has now been published for twelve years in Constantinople. Read any number you like of this newspaper, & you will be convinced that under the veil of evangelical truths there are produced in the nation divisions, persecutions, splits in the most sacred institution of the commonwealth, in the very foundation & pillar of the state, in the "household", in the "family". The editors – evangelicals – counsel you to refrain from intoxicating drinks, – nothing better than that, – but, these same preachers drink. And people like them sit & preach morals, refraining from drink, godliness, & propriety! It would be much more evangelical if, instead of establishing Temperance Societies & agitating in their favour, these preachers themselves, since they drink & get drunk, should, instead of selling us the cheap morality & the cheap propriety of evangelical agitators, be less given to drunkenness themselves, & should themselves live in a more moral & proper way.

So much for the propogandist evangelical activity of the newspaper "Zornitza". "In regard to its literary, scientific, & political value, we must acknowledge that the "Zornitza" has always afforded interesting scientific & political information, that it has understood how to follow a policy both consistent & holding aloof from our partisan passions, strifes, & bickerings; it has always been in favour of a sensible national policy."

The cheapness of this evangelical paper has procured its dissemination to all the ends of our country; in the smallest hamlet you will find it read even by the best orthodox Bulgarians. We ourselves read it regularly, & grieve that the powers of intelligent Bulgarians are at the disposal of this newspaper simply & solely for empty salary, for empty money. Both our faith & our State are being undermined by such propagandist evangelical newspapers; but what matters that, Messrs Bulgarian assistants, so long only as the thirty English pounds, the monthly salary, be paid regularly? To everything they remain blind.

We would that the Bulgarian public should not be tempted by the cheapness of this sheet & buy it simply & solely because it is cheap. He that is an evangelical & sympathises with this sect, let him buy it, let him read it with delight; we have nothing against that. But it is a sin, a crime against our ~~nation~~ country & against our Bulgarian National Orthodox Church to read newspapers & publications which have so manifest a propagandist programme. Not Evangelicalism nor yet Protestantism will save Bulgaria, but unity & combining together in one Bulgarian National Orthodox Church. Where there is harmony, there God is also. Where there is unity, there there is also success.

A paragraph in this same number of "Justice" announces:— There has reached the office lately a composition in verse (signed) with the title "To Tondjoroff! Pastor of the Protestant flock in Philippopolis." In the next number we shall print it in full.

R. T.

Constantinople, Oct. 24, 1887
Recd Nov. 8

[illegible] publications of [illegible] in our [illegible] the newspaper "Zornitza" which has now been published twelve years in Constantinople. Read any number [illegible] convinced that [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] splits in the [illegible] institution [illegible] the very foundation & pillar of the [illegible] "Zornitza" in the [illegible] the editor & evangel[illegible] [illegible] preachers themselves, since they drink & go [illegible] instead of selling in the cheap [illegible] & the cheap [illegible] [illegible] newspaper "Zornitza" [illegible] fic & political value, but must acknowledge that the "Zornitza" has always afforded interesting scientific & political information; that it has understood how to follow a policy consistent & holding aloof from all partisan passions, strife & bickerings; it has always been in favour of a sensible national policy.

The cheapness of this evangelical paper has procured

Bible-House,
Constantinople.
23rd December, 1887.

Dear Dr Clarke,

Mr Peet has called my attention to the fact that my salary for the current year has been put down in the Appropriations at 330 Liras instead of 337½ as I had expected.

I cannot be certain now that this is not owing to my own mistake when I made out my estimates for 1887 in the spring of 1886. I remember asking Mr Peet why 337½ Liras had been given me for 1886, when I expected only 330; & he explained to me how it comes about that that sum is given as the minimum salary of married missionaries in this city. It is possible that, having the two figures in my mind, I may have put down 330 in my estimates instead of 337½: I can't now remember.

But, if it is at all possible, I would ask that I may be allowed to have the extra 7½ Liras for this year (if the mistake is mine), because I have been counting upon it; and this year in particular, when I have had to send my wife & children to Scotland, & am meeting the expense of the journey entirely myself, the difference of 7½ Liras would cause me more difficulty than in other years.

With apologies for the mistake, if it is mine, & with kind regards,

I am,
Yours very sincerely
Robert Thomson.

Conejele, Dec. 23/87,
Rec'd Jan. 9/88.

Constantinople.
24th December, 1887.

Dear Dr Clark,

I have been told that Mrs Mumford of Philippopolis, who is at present in America, has to some extent gained the ear of certain clergymen & others who are offended at the decisions reached at the late Springfield Meeting of the Board. And I learn that they promised her that, if she could get recommendations from reliable persons, they would give to her the support which they have hitherto given to the Board. Under these circumstances, & in case any half or one-sided statements should get into circulation, I think it right to make you acquainted with the following facts.

By last mail I received a letter from Mrs Mumford from New Jersey, & on reading it found that I am one of two persons in Constantinople to whom she thought she might address the following request:– "I come begging of you to speak a kind word for my work in the school in Philippopolis, as far as you feel that you can, so that I may use it, if I find it necessary, as reference."

The following is a copy of everything in my reply that relates to her request. I trust that nothing more may be heard of the matter; but if there is, & if you think it necessary, you are at liberty to make what use you think best of what I now communicate to you.

Believe me, dear Dr Clark,
Yours most sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Copy.

Constantinople.
24th December, 1887.

Dear Mrs Mumford,

I was really sorry to receive your kind letter of the 9th inst. by last post, for the request it contains puts me in a difficult & unpleasant position such as I had much rather have escaped.

I am pleased that you are able to testify that I have treated you with christian friendliness. That has been my sincere endeavour; and I assure you that, were I in Philippopolis now, I should wish to behave & to continue to behave exactly as I have done hitherto. But I see that I need to explain to you, what I supposed would have needed no explanation, that this behaviour of friendliness was manifested towards you personally, not towards your work. Before I reached Philippopolis, I was told of the troubles & of the hindrances to the progress of evangelical truth caused by some having manifested hostility to you; + I afterwards saw for myself abundant evidence that great harm was being done by such conduct. I therefore felt it my duty as a christian, + specially as a preacher of christianity amongst the Bulgarians, to seek + to maintain friendly relations with you. But this attitude of mine was prompted wholly + solely by a desire to promote peace + harmony, not in the least by any wish to aid your work. This is clear from the fact that I began to assume this attitude towards you from the very first, — before I had so much as seen your work, not to say judged of it. It is clear also from the fact that I have studiously to this day left your work entirely alone: I have neither attacked it nor aided it in the least. True, there are some who think that my "countenancing" of you, as it is called, is a help to your work. But, at least, I have never had the intention to aid your work any more than to attack it. When I interested myself in the troubles that arose between you + Mr Tondjoroff, Mr Gootchoff, &c., I did so only in the hope of promoting christian peace + kindness, + of preventing stumbling-blocks in the way of the truth. But in all these matters I carefully avoided having anything to do with your work.

And now, I assure you it pains me to have to add, in reply to your request, that I have continued my friendly relations towards you personally after I have been able to form an opinion about your work, & that opinion is on the whole unsatisfactory. This opinion has nothing whatever to do with the question of your being, as some of our Mission think, an intruder in the Board's territory. I leave that question entirely on one side. My opinion has been gradually formed simply on what I have observed for myself of your work.

Do not misunderstand me. Of course I believe you to be a christian sincerely desiring to do good. And I should be the last to say that no good has been accomplished by you. But, judging of your work as a whole, I think its methods & its results are not such as to be approved, & I could not conscientiously commend it to support. If necessary, I am prepared to give reasons for this opinion; but I think it is not necessary now.

In leaving this subject, let me just assure you of three things. First, I have no hostility to your work: I simply do not feel that I can commend it. Second, this opinion has not affected my wish to preserve friendly relations with you personally; & I trust it may not make you wish to change either. And third, in pursuance of my determination not to attack your work, I never express this opinion except when I am directly asked for it & feel that I ought to reply; & then I always try to express it as kindly & moderately as possible.

× × × × × × × ×

And now believe that I am, & always wish to be, in the manner in which I have been hitherto,

Your christian friend,

Robert Thomson.

Coniple, Dec. 24, 1887.

Rec'd Jan. 9, /88.

✓

Constantinople.
10th January, 1888.

My dear Dr Clark,

Dr Riggs has asked me, in forwarding to you his letter, to add an expression of my views. For formality's sake I do so; but it is surely unnecessary to say that, if comfortable arrangements can be made for the residence of the dear old Doctor here, I shall be overjoyed to see him back here again, & to have him devote as much of the wonderful vigour that still remains to him as he may think wise to the prosecution of our work. I shall endeavour not to burden him with any of those "responsibilities" from which he seems somewhat to shrink; but merely to have him here to consult with when necessary will be a great boon. I should be particularly happy to see him here again in view of the fact that our Mission has begun work on a Commentary on the New Testament. In the prosecution of that work, his presence here with his great store of learning would be simply invaluable.

There is no time to consult the brethren of our Mission; but I feel quite sure that they would say that if Dr Riggs himself is willing to return here, they would welcome him back with thankfulness.

I am, dear Dr Clark,
Yours very sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Const'ple, Jan. 10, 1888,
Rec'd Jan. 30.

✓

Constantinople.
18th February, 1888.

Dear Dr Clark,

As I have had no further word from you about the 7½ Liras, I write to point out to you that you appear not to have observed that it was last year, not the present year, in reference to which I wrote. In 1886 I received 337½; & this year (1888) I am down on the appropriations for 337½; but last year (1887), owing to the possible mistake which I explained to you, I received only 330. My request is that, if possible, I should still be allowed to receive on last year other 7½ Liras, & thus get the same as I did the previous year & as I shall this year.

Excuse my troubling you so about what doubtless appears a small matter; but, as I have already mentioned, the matter is of special importance to me in my present circumstances.

Believe me, with kind regards,
Yours very truly,
Robert Thomson.

Feb. 18. 1888

[illegible]

✓

Constantinople,
11th June, 1888.

My dear Dr Clark,

I send you herewith the Minutes of our recent Annual Meeting, & a copy of the Report of this Station.

There are several things about which I should like to write you; but my absence in Philippopolis has both caused an accumulation of work here, & has also given me a fresh dose of chills & fever; so I don't feel quite like writing at present. I shall say only that, on finding the meeting so much exercised for lack of funds, & especially on finding that everything saved from the salary-department might be added on to the general-work-department, I could not find it in my heart to say anything about those 7½ Liras about which I have corresponded with you lately. So I let it go: I daresay I shall be quite happy without it.

With cordial regards,
Yours most sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Consple June 11 1888

✓

Constantinople.
31st August, 1888.

My dear Dr Clark,

The receipt to-day of a second letter from you (of date 14th Aug.) with reference to the appointment of another labourer, possibly Mr Sleeper, to this Station, reminds me that I should have acknowledged the receipt of your first letter, though unable to reply to it at once.

As soon as possible after receipt of that letter I wrote out my views on the question very fully, after consultation with Dr Riggs, & then sent them on to the other Stations with the request that they would append their views & return all to me, that I might forward the whole correspondence to you. Things move slowly in this country; & I have not yet received the documents back, but as soon as they reach me I shall forward them to you.

I shall say in brief only this that I am heartily in favour of Mr Sleeper's coming here, if not at once, after a year or two.

Your second letter makes a suggestion that was not made in the first, — as to a native brother being possibly employed instead of another missionary. While I cannot be certain, I rather think that the Mission would feel with me that there is no one of our native brethren who is quite qualified for the work. Moreover, the Mission is short of good native workers in the evangelistic line, & feels the necessity of retaining the best men for that department.

The opening sentence of your letter, in which you remark that you had been expecting to hear from me since Dr Byington's death, induces me to say that I hope you have not received any wrong impressions as to my needs here. At last Annual Meeting, my good Brother Dr Kingsbury told me that he had written several times to you strongly protesting against my being alone here. It was very kind of him to interest himself so in the matter; but the view he expressed was entirely his own. By that I mean that I have never either to him or to any one else indicated a wish for more help at present. That is why it did not occur to me to write to you: I had nothing to say. As you will see when my full views reach you, my opinion (which I also expressed at Annual Meeting) is that another worker is needed here, not immediately, but in the course of a year or two. But rather than risk the permanent loss of Mr Sleeper to the Mission, I think he should be engaged at once, or as soon as he feels he can come, if he is willing to entertain the proposal. I trust the Mission will endorse these views, & heartily.

With very sincere regards, I am,
Yours most truly,
Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, Aug. 31, 1880.
Rec'd Sep. 15.

Constantinople.
15th September, 1888.

My dear Dr Clark,

The correspondence regarding the call to Mr & Mrs Sleeper to return to the work here reached me in its completed state yesterday. I now pass it on to you to act in regard to it as seems to you best.

I am thankful that there is so great an amount of unanimity in the matter. My only regret is that three of the brethren should have thought it necessary — so needlessly, as it appears to me, under the circumstances — to insist on the abstract theory that a missionary must be ready to do whatever is asked of him. I am not sure that the theory itself is a correct one: if a man knows that he has no gifts for teaching or for editing, but has gifts for evangelizing or organizing, I think he would be justified in refusing work that he knows he would spoil, & taking only such work as he can hope to do good in. And practically, notwithstanding the theory, a Mission never ignores a man's own strong convictions. So it seems to me pedantic & almost obstructionary to insist so strenuously on a mere theory. But in any case, even good theories can be urged in an impolitic manner; and I think that, out of consideration to the feelings of Mr & Mrs Sleeper in their circumstances, it would be a pity if, in addition to withdrawing their resignation, it were demanded of them to "pass under the yoke" of acknowledging this theory.

Whether you invite Mr Sleeper, or seek some new person for this Station, let me call your special attention to what I say on the 6th page of the accompanying letter, towards the foot. Unless the Prudential Committee & Mission think it best to increase the grant for Publication Work, the other missionary who comes here would need to devote only part of his time to literary work (so as not to over-run our appropriations), & give the rest of his time to evangelistic work.

Believing that the Lord will lead us all to what is best for His glory & for the Bulgarian work in the decision of this question, & with cordial regards to yourself,

I am, Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson. * In view of the expression of Dr Kingsbury's opinion in the accompanying letters, let me emphasize what I said to you when writing a week or ten days ago, that I feel just now perfectly well, as I have done all these 3½ years. R.T. [illegible]

Rec'd Oct. 1.

Mr Sleeper

1169

دولت علیهٔ عثمانیه پوسته لری

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

TURQUIE

آچیق مخابره ورقه سی

Carte Postale

CONSTANTINOPLE 9 FEVRIER 1889

NEW YORK FEB 89

Rev. N. G. Clark, D.D.,
Congregational House, 1 Somerset Street,
Boston : Mass.,
U. S. America.

N.B. Ce côté-ci est réservé exclusivement à l'adresse

مرسل الیهك نام وشهرت ومحل اقامتی بالایه یازیله جقدر

Ph.-wf ✓ Constantinople: 9th February, 1889.

Dear Dr Clark, As supplementary to my recent letter to you, I take pleasure in informing you that I have received the permission to continue the Monthly Zornitza. I am thankful to say, also, that I am not obliged to put a political department into it. It remains exactly the same as formerly, with the one insignificant yet very characteristic + in another sense significant exception, that the motto which it has borne all these 22 years is no longer permitted. The motto, from which the paper took its name, was the words "Until the day dawn, and the day-star arise" (2 Pet. 1; 19). Any mention in an connection whatever of the words "star", "dawn", + such like i now strictly forbidden, as the people have been taught to c sider these words emblems of hope. — Yours in the hope that in spite of this the Day-Star will arise on Turkey, R. Thomson.

Constantinople.
13th April, 1889.

My dear Dr Clark,

Probably the best way I can inform you of how matters go is to transcribe for you the letter which I have this week sent to Mr Straus, the American Minister here. To what you will learn from that I add only the following:—

I greatly regret that the circulation of both the Weekly + the Monthly have fallen very low this year. Hard times, competing newspapers, + perhaps to some extent difference of political views may be considered responsible for a portion of this decrease; but the greater portion of it is, I think, directly attributable to the Censorial interference which prevents our writing on such topics, + our so expressing ourselves, as to maintain the interest of our readers. In the case of the Monthly, its unjust stoppage at the very time when subscriptions for the new year should have been renewed is without doubt the sole cause of the falling off.

I am now finding myself able once more to devote some time to the work on books + tracts, though not as much as I used to be able to give, as the new Censorial regulations impose considerable extra work in connection with the newspapers upon me. But it ought to be clearly understood that, if I am finding somewhat less difficulty than formerly with the Censor, it is only because I am avoiding subjects — & that, too, in the religious as well as in other departments — which I suppose he would strike out, though I claim that they are harmless, ought to be profitable, and, in some cases, demand notice.

With reference to the suggested removal of our publication department from here into Bulgaria, in regard to which you recently asked that Dr Riggs & I should exchange views, I may say that the subject had already been touched upon in my previous correspondence with various members of the Mission. Whether it will be brought up at our Annual Meeting or not I cannot say. One or two have all along been in favour of the removal, & probably must be still more favourable to it now. But, while I cannot deny that there is a good deal to be said for it, my own feeling is decidedly against the removal. Dr Riggs is of the same way of feeling, & so are at least two other members of the Mission. My two main arguments against it are the consequent loss to us of Macedonia and Thrace, & the encouragement which our retreat would give to the Turkish Government to try its persecuting tactics on the publishing work of the other Turkish Missions.

Dr Riggs, accompanied by Dr Greene as delegate from the Western Turkey Mission, started yesterday for Samokov to attend our Annual Meeting. The dear old man was as usual a marvel for his physical endurance, his wonderful mental activity, & his beautiful quiet spirit. It is a great privilege to be associated with one so far above me in every way.

The Dragoman of the American Legation is to begin action at the Porte to-day in reference to the subjects brought up in my letter to Mr Straus; and I may mention, to illustrate how I am dealt with, that Mr Boyadjian, the new Vekil of the Protestants, intends also to-day to make a complaint of his own. For the political department of our issue of this week I had prepared a paragraph, in no way differing from what the other papers published unless that, for safety's sake, I made it briefer, mentioning the recent reception by the Sultan of the heads of the religious communities. In the course of the paragraph I wrote: "After the general audience, the Protestant Vekil was received in private audience by the Sultan, who congratulated him on his appointment, wished him success, and added: 'My imperial wish,' &c." The words I have underlined were struck out; & now the Vekil proposes to enquire by what right the Sultan's servants refuse publication to one of his acts, especially as the prohibition is imposed exclusively on the Zornitza.

All this is disappointing + uphill work; yet if the thing has to be fought out it is right enough that the struggle should fall to a comparatively youthful member of the Mission. A month or more ago I got a fright about my head; but the trouble appears to have passed entirely for the present, so that I can report myself in good health. For the rest, I am confident that some wise purpose must be hidden under these trials,—a purpose that will be realized in due time for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom; + that is sufficient to make everything bearable.

Believe me, dear Dr Clark,
Yours very sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Copy.

You may remember that early in the year I appealed to you in regard to two religious articles, prepared for publication in the Zornitza, which the Censor returned to me greatly mutilated, without any apparent justification for his interference. On reading the English original, you were satisfied that the Censor's action constituted an unwarranted infringement of our freedom of imparting purely religious teaching to the people; and you instructed Mr Gargiulo to make representations in regard to the matter. Before he had time to act, I had occasion to remonstrate again with the Censor on account of similar interference, but this time found him so much more willing to listen to reason that I wrote begging you to stop action for the time being, as I was unwilling to open any unnecessary dispute on the question.

I regret to say that the time has now come when matters seem to me to call for those representations which you then expressed your willingness to make. In support of this view, let me ask your attention to the following facts.

In one of the religious articles prepared for this week's number of the paper I had occasion to quote and comment on the words of Christ — "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends," &c. The article did not contain one word that had the faintest reference, or could give any offence, to either the Turkish Government or faith or to any other faith. It was purely & simply non-controversial religious instruction. The Censor returned it to me with the words I have underlined erased, as well as the paragraph explanatory of them. I at once sent a polite message saying that he had surely made some mistake. These were words directly quoted from the Scriptures — nay, the words of Christ Himself; & he surely would not venture to forbid the use of our own Scriptures. As for the paragraph, it was an inoffensive comment upon the words. The Censor's reply was that he had made no mistake. His instructions were never to permit in any connection whatsoever the word "servant" (or rather "slave", the equivalent of the Greek δοῦλος) to appear in the paper, and that it made no difference whose words they were. The paragraph, as being a comment on the relation of master + servant, could not be permitted.

I cannot but believe that you will feel that this is a ruling which it is impossible to accept. Exactly the same thing occurred also on three occasions between my appeal to you in January + the present occasion; but this is the first time that the Censor has squarely committed himself to the position that certain words and subjects, even though given in the direct language of the Scriptures, will not be permitted.

I think it right to let you know that the Censor has repeatedly + consistently, and on this occasion also, expressed himself to us as disgusted with the work he has to do upon our paper, not in regard to the religious matter alone, but in regard to the whole contents; but he claims that he is under instructions; and both from what he has told us, + from the manner in which Mr Barnum's *Avedaper* is treated, I believe you will find that the Minister of the Interior will disclaim + will countermand the instructions which some one, inferior to him but superior to the Censor, has given in regard to the *Zornitza*. I may say that, on the first occasion, I appealed the matter to the Director of the Press; but he with some rudeness replied that I need never appeal to him, as he would on every occasion uphold the Censor.

I have mentioned Mr Barnum's *Avedaper*. The Censorial control exercised upon it is almost wholly nominal. *But I mention it for the information of the Legation alone: any reference to it made to the Government might cause restrictions to be placed upon it.*

This interference with our freedom of religious teaching is the main question which I desire to raise at present; and it has a much wider aspect than merely the above facts would indicate; for, in writing for the paper, I have avoided subjects which I believe you would acknowledge to be both of a purely religious character and utterly inoffensive, but which I know by experience would be struck out by the Censor; & thus my range of subjects is unjustly limited. In particular, I object to the restriction that, while the Censor would permit any amount of writing on abstract doctrines, he at once cuts out anything of a practical nature, and the more the teaching seeks to have a good effect on men's lives the more does he mutilate it. But, though the matter of interference with our religious teaching is the main question I now raise, there are other questions which, if you approve, seem to me ripe for representations. In the historical & Scientific departments matters are cut out without the slightest justification. I shall not now detain you with more than two or three illustrations; but I am ready to supply any information that may be desired. For example, all astronomical articles or reference to stars, and an article on the rainbow, were cut out; while the sketch-life of Chrysostom was shamefully mutilated, from 1/4th to 1/3rd of its contents being excised, in most cases without a shadow of reason.

I append also a list of detached words which, up to the present (and the list is constantly increasing), I have been forbidden to use, no matter in what connection — religious, scientific, historical, or any other, however devoid of all political significance. This will indicate to you the nature of the restrictions imposed upon me; & when I remind you that the vocabulary of the Bulgarian language is rather poor, so that the avoidance of these words in some cases is almost an impossibility, & in others demands awkward circumlocutions, you will see that a real hardship is involved in the matter, in addition to its leading, as I have already shown, to Scriptural quotations being frequently mutilated.

Of the restrictions in the political department I make no complaint: as a matter of fact, I have very little difficulty there.

In conclusion, I see no reason why I should be compelled to submit to regulations which are both unjust in themselves and are also not imposed on all the press. And amongst these regulations I would class the being compelled to send the contents of the paper for previous approval to the Porte, instead of receiving a visit from the Censor just before going to press.

I trust that you will see your way to making representations on all these subjects in the proper quarter; but in any case I believe that you will feel that the interference with our religious teaching is something to be energetically resisted. In respect to that, I claim that, so long as my religious articles contain nothing offensive to Mohammedanism, and are not controversial, I should be left absolutely unfettered in what I write in them.

R. T.

Consple April 13, 89

Recd 2 May

Constantinople.
20th January, 1889.

My dear Dr Clark,

The *Zornitza* begins its fourteenth year under circumstances entirely peculiar & in a high degree embarrassing. I hope that if I explain these to you with some particularity I may not be considered wearisome.

You are doubtless already acquainted with the fact that on the 11th November last the Sultan suddenly changed the Director of the Press, & laid upon the new Director orders of the most stringent nature in regard to what the Press was to be permitted to publish. Just what led him to take this action can only be guessed; but it has become evident that one thing, if not the chief thing, that prompted him to it must have been a fear in regard to Macedonia. The newspapers of the Bulgarian Principality had, very unwisely, raised the question of Macedonia but a short time previously; & it was also reported, apparently on good authority, that various foreign agitators were in that province trying to stir up the people. It is to these circumstances, I suppose, that the exceptional restrictions laid upon the *Zornitza* are to be attributed; for it is the only paper that circulates to any considerable extent in Macedonia, & the only one in the Bulgarian language. Yet perhaps I am wrong in saying that the restrictions are exceptional; for I have not had time or opportunity to enquire how matters stand with extra-Bible-House papers, & I come to that conclusion only from a few things that I have heard, & from the fact that the Avedaper, if its condition be contrasted with that of the Zornitza, might almost be said to be only nominally controlled.

On the day following the Sultan's action I was summoned to the Porte, to the Bureau de la Presse; and there, after a list of instructions had been given me as to what I might put in the paper & what I might not, I was further told that all the matter I proposed to put in each No. of the paper must be sent up in duplicate to the Bureau two days before the time of publication, & only that which was returned me signed & approved might be inserted.

I have now had ten weeks' experience of this régime. Had the Censor's control during this time been confined to matters directly or indirectly of a political nature, I should not care, even though it imposes considerable hardships upon me; for I have no wish to publish in that department anything that the Government objects to, however harmless it may seem to me. Yet the resulting hardships are great. In the first place, it adds wonderfully to the ~~[illegible]~~ amount of mere labour we have to ~~go through~~ perform in order to comply with the requirement that we should submit all our matter beforehand in duplicate; and besides this, it robs the news-department of its freshness, ~~which is worse in a weekly paper than in a daily~~. In the second place, the Censor does not intimate to us what current topics are forbidden, nor when the prohibition in regard to them is removed. The first result of this is that much of the time & labour of us all is often thrown away in preparing apparently harmless matter which is rejected: the second result is that, in avoiding topics which have been once forbidden but afterwards without our knowledge permitted, we deprive our readers of matter which they might fairly expect us to write upon: & the third result is that, in anticipation of some of our matter being perhaps struck out, & to avoid our being crowded at the last moment, we have to prepare more material than our space demands, which is again a waste of time & labour; for it is seldom that paragraphs in the news department can stand over from one week to another. And then, in the third place, there is the hardship that, by being permanently forbidden to publish anything on certain topics, which topics were of great interest to our readers + yet, ~~I believe~~, perfectly innocent, the popularity of the paper is lessened, + so our chances of doing good are decreased. Among these topics, I may mention the Debates in the Bulgarian National Assembly, — we being permitted now to publish nothing but a bare list of the laws + resolutions passed; certain interesting philological + grammatical discussions as to the language of the Macedonian Slavs; antiquarian + historical notes from either Macedonia, Eastern Roumelia, or Bulgaria; + so on.

"Further, as proving, on the one hand, that we have not shewed dangerous tendencies in our political department, and, on the other hand, that the Censor's objections have been such as could not reasonably have been anticipated, I may mention that the two political articles which I have had occasion to write on Bulgarian affairs during the~~se~~ ten weeks of this new censorship have been approved, while the matter struck out has been news-paragraphs, such as — Baron Hirsch's large money-gift to the Jews of Russia, Affairs in Zanzibar, Affairs at Suakin, Small-pox in Adrianople, + so forth.

"~~But, I repeat, while~~ "These things are hardships, — causing us a great deal of labour + anxiety, wasting our time, + damaging the prosperity of the paper, ~~I should not have taken [illegible] much to heart the Censor's~~

this he mutilates in the same way. The sketch had been begun largely with the desire to show what might be done in the church by efficient preaching, & how Chrysostom succeeded in making his preaching so practical: it shewed how he seized on current events & wrought them into his sermons with wonderful power. But the Censor is indifferent to the fact that, if the populace had been rebellious, the court worldly & extravagant, &c., these are mentioned simply as an introduction to Chrysostom's fearless reproofs directed against them. He cuts out both the historical statement, & ~~all reference to them in the preacher's words~~ & so he fragments & leaves nothing but a set of disjointed & meaningless sentences.

"Others of the Censor's proceedings I find it impossible to reduce under any rule at all: they are simply incomprehensible. Such were his striking out the statement that one of Chrysostom's sermons had been evoked by the terror of the people at a great earthquake that had occurred; & his excision of a paragraph in which, after pointing out men's responsibilities towards God, it was argued that men are also responsible for what they can & ought to know about God, even though they do not know it.

N.P. When these difficulties with the religious & religio historical articles began, I ventured once to appeal from the Censor to his superior the Director of the Press. ~~At first he was rude, though afterwards he seemed some-~~

~~what ashamed of himself; yet~~ but his verdict was simply that I need never appeal to him, for he would always support the Censor. He gave this decision in spite of my explanations, & without ordering the Censor to prepare for him a Turkish translation of the rejected matter, as he ought to have done."

After a failure like that, I next tried a confidential conversation with the Censor himself, who is always very pleasant, & declares that, but for superior orders, he would never interfere with us. The result of this interview was still more astonishing; for I never expected to hear a Turkish official (& the man is himself a Turk of good family) make with his own lips the acknowledgment which he made. After I had so pressed him that he confessed that he could answer me nothing in regard to three religious articles that he had mutilated, & when I asked why then he had touched them, he at last replied in these very words:- "The Government knows what is going on in Macedonia; & it has determined not to allow that kind of article any more; for such articles *make people think*, — *they open men's eyes*." I was very thankful that the Censor could testify for the paper that what I aim to make it is in any degree achieved; but I never dreamed that he would so baldly admit that his Government is so harsh towards it on that account. After that, & after consultation with Dr interference in these departments; for it serves no interest of our work or of my own to publish anything to which Government caprice may take objection. Neither should I have worried when the Censor made himself ridiculous by striking out of another department a paragraph in which an astronomer, going on the supposition that Venus at perihelion was the Star of Bethlehem, gave calculations to show what must have been the true date of our Lord's birth; or when he erased the words "poisoned" and "mercury" from the conclusion of an article on "Strange Cases of Imaginary Disease", in which a doctor, giving a list of diseases from which it was common to find people imagining they were suffering, included among them suppositions of poisoning, & suppositions of the undermining of the system through overdoses of mercury.

No P. But, unfortunately, the Censor does not stop there. He invades the religious & educational departments, & has been working sad havoc in them, ~~especially just these last weeks.~~ His pretexts for doing so are three. The first is that he claims that political meaning is hidden underneath an innocent exterior; & when I ~~earnestly or~~ indignantly repudiate that, he admits that it may not be my intention so to write, but that the words are capable of being so interpreted. ~~When I tell you that.~~ The greatest fault, on this score, was found with the article in the last No. for 1888, in which I called upon our readers to reflect upon God's mercies during the year, & so to cultivate a spirit of gratitude to Him, ~~you will see that he is not lacking in ingenuity (if he is not a fool or a rascal, or both)~~. His second pretext is that certain words are in themselves dangerous; & wherever he finds them he strikes them out, no matter how harmless their connection. He is specially averse ~~down~~ to "union" & "freedom". Till the American Legation here interfered, he would not let us use the official name of America — "The United States of America". ~~And his latest achievement in this line has been to~~ He has lately stricken out these two words from Dr Crosby's sentence in his notes on the Sunday School Lesson "Ruth's Choice," in which he observes that "Ruth's union with the family of Elimelech had freed her from her idolatry."* His third pretext is that the articles, by mentioning evil deeds, suggest these evil deeds to the people. He makes no difference between us who speak of such things to condemn them, & others (if such there be) who mention them with pleasure. Here he works great havoc. He permits that portion of an article in which some Scriptural doctrine is explained in the abstract; but when he reaches the portion where its practical application is enforced, there he slashes right & left, or perhaps cuts the whole out. At present we are running through the paper a sketch of Chrysostom & his work; &

Riggs, I asked the American Minister whether he would be willing to make representations in regard to the interference with the religious articles. He replied that he would. As the Censor last week shewed himself a little more amenable to reason, I have requested the Minister not to take steps in the meanwhile; for we wish to avoid irritating the Government in that way if possible. Yet if the troubles are renewed, I don't see what else we can do; for I am ashamed to send out to our readers the mutilated, disjointed, & pointless articles that the Censor has left me these weeks past.

Whether this will continue — perhaps even grow worse, — or whether, like so many Turkish reforms, it will be pressed very hard for a time, & then relaxed, remains to be seen. Meanwhile it is very hard on us all. Mr Gadinaroff in his recent tour found that some people have observed the effects on the paper of the Censor's control, & that they were less ready to subscribe for it. Of the hardships to which compositors, translators, & indeed all of us are subjected I have already spoken. Mr Boyadjian begins to speak of charging me extra for matter set in type & then rejected. As for myself, — I would not mention the great worry & anxiety that I constantly have, or the much extra work that falls upon me, were it not that I find, to my great regret, that I have no time left for other work. If these worries cannot be put an end to, I am glad to submit to them, & I am glad to give nearly every moment of my time, as I now do, for the work's sake. But what troubles me is that, try as I may, I am unable to do anything, under this new régime, on the books & tracts. They are quite at a stand-still so far as my work on them is concerned. And from all I can learn, if we had any books to submit to the Censor, we should probably have as great troubles over them as we now have over the paper.

This leads me to tell you what is the present position of the Monthly Zornitza — the Child's Paper, as it is sometimes called. The Censorship of the Press has two departments, — one for newspapers, & one for books & tracts. When the Sultan issued his orders ten weeks ago, both departments were so terrified that they shunned every responsibility which they could avoid. The department for newspapers therefore refused any longer to recognize the monthly (although they had done so for 13 years) because, seeing it contained no political department, they claimed it was not a newspaper. On the other hand, the department for books & tracts refuses to touch it, claiming that its shape & size and its title (Zornitza) proclaim it to be a newspaper. Negotiations through the Legation then led to our preparing a petition to be allowed to continue it under the guise of a monthly children's supplement to the Weekly. This petition has now been at the Porte for six or seven weeks, & we have constantly followed it up; yet no answer is yet forthcoming. The answer may be a refusal. If it is a permission, it will probably insist that a political department be inserted; which is a thing I should greatly regret.

I almost feel ashamed to have written you so much about this matter; and yet if you could see my bundles of papers as returned from the Censor, with their red scorings sometimes erasing words, sometimes lines, sometimes paragraphs, & sometimes whole columns; if you knew that not a word of it all could be called objectionable by a reasonable man, & that much of it (as I venture to think) is useful & valuable; if you had to meet the constant grumblings of the workers; & if you knew how, at this new year, I tremble lest a greatly diminished subscription-list should indicate how the Censor's action has told, you would perhaps pardon my prolixity.

Now let me close with two words of encouragement. One is, that a good many letters spontaneously sent me during the last few months (& all from members of the old church) convince me that there is an increasing interest amongst the people in good things, & that they recognize in us the sincere advocates of a type of Christianity, if not purer, at least more living & practical, than their own. Quite a good deal of anxiety is being shown for church services in the spoken language, for regular preaching, for the sanctification of the Sabbath, for a pure literature, & for God-fearing teachers, &c.; & the writers generally wish well to the Zornitza in its advocacy of these things.

The second encouragement is the report from Mr Gradinaroff's last semi-annual tour (during December). He went to push the interests of the paper, & was very successful; but his great encouragement was in the eager readiness which the people everywhere displayed to listen to him — for he makes his tours evangelistic as well as business. In no less than three churches (old church) was he gladly permitted to preach on Sundays, his audiences numbering in one place 50, & in the other two about 400 each; & the people longed for more. Besides this, he gathered audiences at the khans where he put up, in the markets, & even in the drink-shops, & always was listened to eagerly. The people are utterly unaccustomed to have any one care for them; & they seemed greatly touched to have salvation preached to them. A good evangelistic work might, I think, easily be opened up amongst the Bulgarians in any part of the region lying between here & the Bulgarian frontier, & stretching from near Bourgas in the north to Dede-Aghatch in the south. His tour on this occasion comprised Kirk-Kilissé, Malko-Tirnovo (the scene of the "Experiences of a Priest" which I lately sent you), Yambol, Kizil-Agatch, Mustapha-Pasha, & the intervening villages.

Believe me, my dear Dr Clark,
Yours most sincerely
Robert Thomson.

Const'ple, Jan. 20, 1889.
Rec'd Feb. 11.
Ans'd Oct. 10.

Constantinople.
6th July, 1889.

My dear Dr Clark,

I had hoped to be able to send you ere now a brief reply to your last communication; but the difficulties with the Censor, which had lessened for a time, have grown greater again latterly, & indeed last week touched a point which they had never before reached.

Through circumstances which I need not detail to you, I had prepared last week to publish in a few successive numbers of the *Weekly* two Sunday School Lessons a week, so as to catch up to the proper date. The Lessons for last week were "Christ before Pilate" and "Christ crucified." The Censor cut out every word of them both. I had a long interview with him the next day, & exhausted all the possible arguments to move him from his position, but in vain. In brief, he let me know that he had been found fault with for being too easy with me, & he claimed that he must forbid these articles because they would be offensive to the Jews! although he admitted that I had nothing in them beyond a simple exposition of what is written in our Scriptures. I intimated to him politely that that was a decision which we could not accept; & on his understanding that I meant to appeal to the American Minister, he advised me "as a friend" not to do so, saying that I would accomplish no good, but would only bring myself into trouble. This last statement he explained by the significant hint that the Government could always *find* reasons for suppressing troublesome papers.

Before passing on to say what has been done further in the case, let me just add in a word that that was only one part of the mutilation inflicted on last week's paper. An interesting scientific article on Bacteriæ had a paragraph cut out of it in which the writer made some very natural reflections on the enormous amount of valuable work effected by the steady industry of these microscopically small organisms. I can account for this only on the supposition that he believes these reflections to have some political significance. Besides this, he made "mince-meat" of one of Mr Toudjoroff's speeches in a report which I am publishing of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. Dr Riggs' remark when he heard of it was that not one word had been spoken at that meeting (at which he was present) that was in any way objectionable. In the political department, notwithstanding our utmost care, a great deal of our work was likewise thrown away by his action. This week it is the same over again, except that the religious articles have escaped. An interesting article on the appearance in Bulgaria of the bird Pastor Roseus, a fact that has attracted the attention of scientific men all over Europe, was mutilated in the most inexplicable fashion. I was allowed to mention that one of its homes was in the hot regions of Africa, but not to say the same about Tartary or any part of Asia; its last visit to the south of Russia was struck out; & various other excisions were made equally unintelligible. Great havoc was again done in the political department & the report of the meeting of the Bulg. Evang. Society. In fact, I may truly say that the last two numbers of the paper have been to a large extent just the best patch-work I could make out of the fragments which the Censor left me.

Your fear that I would not get much satisfaction out of the appeal that I made to Mr Straus (of which I sent you a copy) ~~is~~ was realized. I wish to acquit him of anything like indifference or neglect in the matter. He was most courteous, & I am sure that he did all that he thought could be done. But I regretted that he could not take the same view as we in the Bible-House did. What we wished was the recognition of the *principle* that our religious teachings, so long as they did not attack other faiths, should be left without interference. He thought that the recognition of such a *principle* could not be obtained, & from this drew what was to him the very natural deduction that he could not trouble the Grand Vizier every time I had a complaint to make. All he could do would be to speak to the Minister of the Interior & try to get him to ease up somewhat. This he did; & undoubtedly his representations were effectual for a few weeks. But now, as you see, things are worse than ever; & the interference with our religious teaching is very cunningly made to find its justification in representing these Sunday School Lessons as attacks upon the Jews, thereby making use of the exception to the above-mentioned principle.

When I stated that I could not see why such a principle should not be established, seeing that the religious liberties of Christians are formally guaranteed to them, I regretted to find that Mr Straus had admitted the Turkish claim that the newspaper press is on a different footing from other publications, & that a principle holding good in the latter would not apply to the former. Of course it is true that the Government reserves to itself special control over the newspaper press,

& that foreigners, on becoming editors here, renounce all claim to the aid of their Governments in all matters relating to their papers. Still, I don't see that that touches the matter. In the political department they are welcome to impose what restrictions they like. But even were I a Christian subject of the Porte, I should still possess these guaranteed religious liberties, & should have the power of appealing to foreign Christian powers if I were religiously oppressed. I cannot, therefore, say that I am satisfied with Mr Straus' action in the matter, though I entirely acquit him of any blame.

Notwithstanding the Censor's threat of last week, I have appealed this new grievance to the new Minister Mr Hirsch. Or rather I should say that Mr Henry Dwight, who has been kind enough to give me much good advice & assistance in the case, has done so. I cannot trouble Dr Riggs much. And unfortunately I am kept so closely tied to the office here that I need sometimes to ask for some help when extra work like an appeal to the Minister turns up. At our first interview with Mr Hirsch we learned that he was not going to take up any work until his return from America in October. I therefore did not propose to go to him again meanwhile, nor did I think it would be productive of any good to put the case in the hands of the first Secretary of Legation during Mr Hirsch's absence. But Mr Dwight had occasion to see the Minister again; & in their interview Mr Hirsch himself opened the question of the Zornitza. Mr Dwight tells me that Mr Hirsch took the ground that bona fide religious teachings for our own people must not be interfered with; & he instructed his dragoman to take up the matter on this footing, adding that he wished him to finish it so that he should not have to be troubled with it on his return. It remains to be seen what can be done under the authority of these excellent instructions.

I wonder if good might not be done were you to have an interview with Mr Hirsch during his stay in America.

As regards your reiterated question whether we should not think of removing the paper into Bulgaria, I can only repeat that we are nearly unanimous in thinking it would be a mistake to do so. I admit that there are very serious considerations in favour of what you suggest. The amount of time & labour devoted to & lost upon the preparing or editing, the translating, & the setting in type the material which the Censor rejects is a serious consideration, especially as it stands in the way of the much other work that waits to be done. The printer is very patient, I think, not to have charged for the wasted time of his compositors thus far; + I don't see how I could again beg off were he to raise the question a second time. Then, too, the effect on the usefulness of the paper is very prejudicial. And finally it is very discouraging to myself, + often very wearing on my strength, + will, I fear, necessitate my getting relief or relaxation sooner than I hoped would be necessary, if it is kept up long. That is all true. Still, we don't want to give way before this oppression, which (I can't help thinking) is aimed specially at the Missions of the Board in this Empire; + we don't want to encourage the Turks to take further steps, seeing the success of this step; and we don't want to leave Thrace + Macedonia without a Christian newspaper. So we all strongly feel that I ought to hold on here + fight it out.

I sincerely apologize for the length of this letter. The simple truth is that it takes more time to write a good brief letter than to write at such length as this.

A severe cold has interfered with my finishing this before this the 11th July.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Thomson.

Constantinople, July 6, 1889

Recd July 29

P.C. ✓ cy.